

January 1997

CDXC - The UK DX Foundation

Issue 105

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CHILTERN DX CLUB - The UK DX Foundation - Aims and Objectives

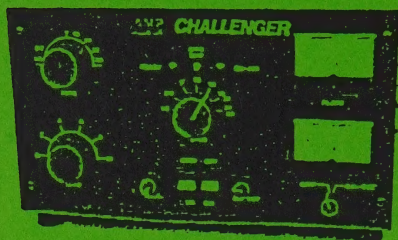
"The aims of the Club are to promote HF operating, to encourage excellence, particularly in DXing and contest operating, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or by whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate".

Membership: Full details of membership are available from the Club Secretary (address above).

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

Newsletter: This Newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.*

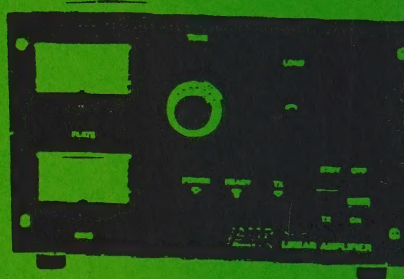
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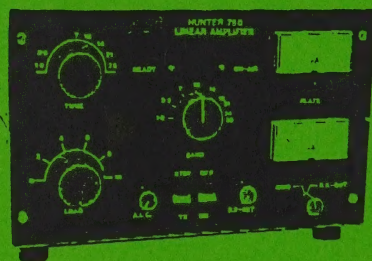
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EDITORIAL

Brendan J McCartney, G4DY0

Welcome to the New Year - the 14th year of publication of CDXC Newsletter. May 1997 be filled with plenty of DX and see the beginnings of the new sunspot cycle. I hope each and every one of you got a shiny new FT1000MP in your Christmas stocking. I got a clockwork orange... Oh well!

With the New Millennium fast approaching I am considering sponsoring various CDXC activities to commemorate this historical event. Firstly, some form of special CDXC award. It won't be easy... requirements will be something along the lines of working a minimum of 100 CDXC members, 250

DXCC countries and 150 band-CQ Zones, with special, full-colour participation certificates and a decent plaque for the outright winner. Secondly, special certificates for the first members (number to be decided) to work DXCC in the first week of the year 2000. Both would demand regular on-air activity by all CDXC members to ensure success. I would appreciate comments and ideas from members before approaching the committee. None of us will ever see another Millennium so let's make this one something special in the world of HF DXing.

Some magic things have happened DX-wise of late. Spending some hours in the garden sorting out an electrical problem on the Quad, then working XZ1N first call running barefoot was magic - like it was *MAGIC!*

Congratulations to CDXC President Don, G3OZF, who nabbed them on at least six bands - including all four LF - and three modes - *MAGIC!* A truly brilliant DXpedition. A few years ago, following a break of several decades, we anxiously awaited activity from Burma with the usual nightmare dread of "Will I make it in the pile-up?". Now, it seems, the hard line is softening and we may hear XY/XZ on the bands more often. Let's hope that P5 becomes that easy. And how about E3 and 7O suddenly appearing from nowhere? I guess a few guys worked them for an all-time new ones and I sincerely hope that all CDXC members needing them were successful. Anyone get on to Honor Roll by working E31FAO or 7O1A?

There was a marked lack of interest by G DXers in the UK stopover of KK6EK. Maybe it was down to being during the "Festive Season" or the fact that the only way we could publicise the event was by PacketCluster? Thank Heaven that Roger, G3KMA was able to entertain Bob and Martha over Christmas.

Twenty-four years ago the first Heard Island DXpedition for many, many years hit the airwaves. For eons prior to that VK0 sat atop many wanted lists. Since the 1983 DXpeditions (yes, there were two different ones there together!) there has been only one other operation - a one-man operation by VK0DA in 1986. Incredibly he could often be heard calling CQ on 20m during our afternoons with few takers - a sure indication of the great success of the 1983 ops. Since those days a few more worthy souls have taken up DXing so the forthcoming operation will probably *not* be heard plaintively calling CQ on 20m!

In addition to the donation from CDXC as a whole I know of at least one member who has donated a substantial sum in his own right. Without such individuals huge undertakings such as the Heard Island DXpedition would be impossible. We're not all million-

aires, but a few greenstamps won't break anyone. Remember this the next time there are plans for a DXpedition to one you need.

If you need Heard Island for an all time new one and do not have a major station consider 17m and 40m. A sloping dipole for either band should prove most effective and, short of a major solar event, will virtually guarantee success.

Sadly there was the resignation from CDXC of a G3 member. It was all most amicable but he felt that contributing money to DXpeditions and striving to reach the top of Honor Roll wasn't his idea of what CDXC should be about. He wrote: "*.....if it gets them to the top spot well I assume that means something to somebody but I cannot for the life of me think what.*" and referred to DXpeditions as "crazy". Obviously he would not appreciate the joy of working a DXpedition to a rare Pacific island, or a country which had been QRT for many years, which further strengthens my long-held belief that DXers are born, not made. You don't see a CDXC Prospectus and suddenly decide "*I'll be a DXer*". It takes years of being an SWL, learning the jargon, reading over and over about DX exploits, meeting other DXers and slowly working towards your DXing goal - whether it be DXCC Honor Roll, 5BWAZ, IOTA, etc., to become a serious DXer.

I hope he sees the light sometime and rejoins the fold..

WELCOME!

The following DXers have recently joined CDXC or renewed their membership. We hope that they will enjoy being members and that they will participate in CDXC activities:

G0AIX (220)	Dave	Penzance
G4SOF (324)	Dave	Penzance

(Countries worked scores in brackets)

Dave Mann, G0HYN, CDXC Secretary

CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

One of my roles on the RSGB's HF Committee is to represent CDXC and its membership. As with many of the Society's committees the HF Committee is reviewing its objectives and the way forward. I would very much appreciate your input on the following initiatives that I propose to make to the HF Committee. Indeed I would be very pleased to hear from any Member about any other ideas. I am anxious that we have some clear objectives and deliverables for the HF Committee and that these deliverables should have a significant impact on the HF community. Here are some initial thoughts.

► **Spectrum:** Identify two key issues that would have a major impact on our community and work very hard to achieve them. They must be major and important. I propose: (1) Extension of 40m band to 300 KHz and (2) Extension of 30m band to say 100 KHz including 50 KHz for SSB.

► **HF/IOTA Convention:** We need fresh ideas - a new approach. How about workshops/forums on whether HF radio? Or technical discussion groups? What does the HF community want?

► **Awards Programme:** IOTA is going great but we do have other major and challenging awards. How are we to promote these and so enhance the profile of the UK?

► **Electronic QSLs/Logs:** To develop procedures for the use of electronic QSLs and to utilise logs on disk (and perhaps by Email) for awards applications. We should consult on standards with DXCC.

► **DXCC Card Checking:** Initial discussions are underway about field checking cards for DXCC in the UK. Can we set up reciprocal checking for all our awards in the

US? Can we make reciprocal arrangements with other major award programmes e.g. JARL, etc? We will need to build a network of competent checkers.

► **Our Contributions to DXpeditions:** Can we get more impact and publicity from our contributions to DXpeditions? And finally:

► **Incentive Licensing:** This is an important initiative aimed at attracting youngsters and others to the hobby and making progression to the higher classes of licence an attractive and rewarding process. There are of course many arguments for and against incentive licensing.

What are your views?

The DXCC marketing initiative is now complete. We mailed the Prospectus, a copy of the November Newsletter and a personalised covering letter from yours truly to around 110 DXCC participants in the British Isles. All are potential Members. In addition to this we have also written to around 100 UK IOTA participants. We sent the same materials. Again all are potential Members. Chris G4BUE, as Editor of DXNS and DXNM, has agreed to mail the Prospectus with the January DXNM to all G Subscribers (around 500). Obviously some CDXC Members will receive a Prospectus. Please do not throw it away but use it to persuade a local amateur to join the Club. Less than half the CDXC Members subscribe to DXNS/DXNM. It is an excellent publication that deserves your support.

A note of thanks to those Members who, following my note with the November Newsletter, encouraged several Members whose membership had lapsed to rejoin. I have now sent a final reminder to the few remaining Members who have not yet renewed.

We have not made any further contributions to DXpeditions in the past two months. I was very interested, however, to read the Heard Island pages on the World Wide Web. The amateur sponsors are divided into various categories as follows:

- ▶ Corporations, Foundations and Saints (>\$20,000): Northern California DXF
- ▶ Patrons (>\$10,000): The DXpedition team members
- ▶ Benefactors (>\$5,000): INDEXA - the International DX Association
- ▶ Big Ben-ders (>\$1000) Lynx DX Group, FunkAmateur DG0ZB, CDXC/RSGB, UBA/Flanders DX Club, Twin Cities DX Association, South-eastern DX Club, North Alabama DX Club, EUDXF, Danish DX Club

There are also huge numbers of contributors to the following:

- ▶ Elephant Seal Society (>\$500)
- ▶ Heard Island Cormorant Club (>\$100)
- ▶ Penguin Partners (>\$25)
- ▶ The Tardigrade Trust (<\$25)

Welcome all to the league of Big-Benders!

The Club's finances remain in good shape and we have built some reserves that can be used to finance future DXpeditions and developments. As many Members will know we work closely with the RSGB DXpedition Fund. As can be seen from the Society's Annual Accounts that fund stood at £2,850 at 30 June 1966. Since then it has been supplemented by the raffle income from the HF Convention last October, totalling £1,274. Sponsorship contributions since 30 June total £400.00 leaving a current balance of £3,724. It is encouraging that both funds continue to be in good shape.

In recent weeks I read Bob G3PJT's new book "Reflections in a Rosebowl - A History of BERU and the Commonwealth Contest". I thoroughly enjoyed it - Bob has done a tremendous amount of research - it is

a fascinating publication and I recommend it. CDXC supported Bob by contributing £50, the cost of a half page 'congratulatory' advertisement.

Some Members will have read that CDXC Member Bob WB2YQH has taken over the DX Bulletin and that this has been merged into Bob's own 59(9) DX Report. We wish you every success with this venture Bob. 59(9) is a very interesting publication and focuses on the major DXpeditions in some detail.

Congratulations also to CDXC Member Barry ZS1FJ and his team on activating Seal Island (AF-077) as ZS23I - an all-time new one for IOTA. I spoke to Barry very recently about this IOTA DXpedition. It was a really tough one and the pictures are fantastic. I hope we can publish the full story in the March Newsletter. Well done Barry and Co. I suspect it will be many years before we hear AF-077 again!

Congratulations also to our President Don G3OZF and to Peter G3RZP on their election to RSGB Council. There are now three CDXC Members on the RSGB Executive Committee - Don G3OZF, Don G3XTT and myself.

The Annual Dinner is booked for 22 March and details are in the enclosed flyer. It should be another good affair with accommodation available at reasonable rates. Could I encourage as many Members as possible to attend. It is one of the main social occasions of the year.

With the wide diverse membership now in CDXC the Committee has asked me to see whether there would be support for a Northern Dinner in addition to the Annual Dinner. Possibly this could be combined with another event? Let us have your views, Is there a Member "Up North" who will volunteer to undertake the organisation?

May I wish all Members a Very Happy and Prosperous 1997.

JOTTINGS of the SECRETARY

Dave Mann G0HXN

Seasonal greetings from Jenny and me; we hope that 1997 will bring you all peace and happiness. As you will see from the flyer enclosed with this issue, the 1997 Dinner will take place on 22nd March. For those of you who came last year to Crowthorne I tried to get the same place this year but, as we have to arrange things around contest dates, they could not oblige this year. However, we are booked into the Forte PostHouse Hotel in Reading, which is adjacent to Junction 11 of the M4. Having been there recently for one of my sons' wedding receptions I can recommend the food and accommodation. Please book early. Roger Western has agreed to give the after dinner talk on his trip to the Togo Republic earlier this year.

It has been suggested that perhaps the Club could hold a "Northern Area Dinner". As the Club is now well spread throughout the Country it may be a little difficult, considering weather/ distance/ cost etc., for some of our Northern members to make the trip to sunnier parts! Both Jenny and I would be happy to meet up with you in another location. Any ideas of location/date would be appreciated. Also how about volunteering to organise the event! There have been several enquiries about CDXC Rubber Stamps. These may be purchased from Neville, G3NUG along with Key Rings and Paper Weights.

I would like to congratulate Alan Jubb G3PMR on coming joint 4th in the PW

Newsletter Contest. Well done Alan.

It was nice to hear Phil HS0/G4JMB the other day. It's a shame that some UK amateurs do not appreciate that silence from the UK end doesn't mean that Phil is waiting for a call. Are we now as far as the cycle goes on the way up? Phil was a very good 57 - 59 at 9.00 am in the morning, several hours earlier than normal. I must admit Phil's story from Bangkok makes a good read and I look forward to the next instalment. Why not come and meet Phil the next time he is in the UK? Watch the Cluster and newsletter for information and come and join the Phil Weaver Lunch Club. Bring the XYL.

I am in the process of changing my Internet provider. I have been with CompuServe for some time now, but lately I have been finding it nearly impossible to access the system. My call to Reading puts me into the system very quickly, but from there on in, forget it. Anything from 10-20 minutes to down load my Email then sometimes bombs out half way through. I am looking at the other providers and as soon as I have decided I will notify you all who use the Net by Email.

Must go now and join the pile up - SA-017 has popped his head up and is putting a nice signal into this QTH. Trouble is Europe must be very strong to him at this moment, although there are several strong local G3's calling, so I shall wait until one of those gets through and tailgate!!

73 Good DX

Don't forget book early for the dinner.

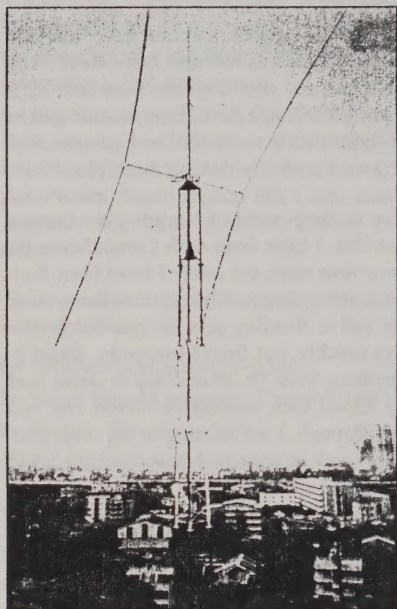
BANGKOK THE FINAL PHASE

by Phil Weaver, HS0/G4JMB

In my last article "Bangkok - I'm Here !", I spoke of the final stages of getting on the air which entailed the putting up of a tower on the roof of my apartment building and the

erection of the Quad. This has taken longer than I had anticipated but on Saturday the 16 November it all came together after a very tense couple of weeks. The local company, Siam Telecom CTX Co. eventually agreed to construct the tower after a site visit on the 21st October. The quotation eventually

came through on the 23rd, and I paid a 50% deposit (£345.) with a ten day delivery promise. This latter fact was pure myth. However I went ahead and arranged for Brett Graham VS96BG, to come and see me the weekend of the 15th November to put the Lightning Bolt Quad up as he had previously put together two other similar Quads.

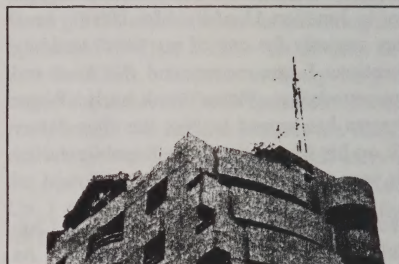


Phil's Quad above Bangkok

The price of everything came to more than I had originally mentioned in the last article as this now included, the 12 bolts to hold the tower onto the roof, (£150) , a 50 sq.mm. copper wire earthing system (£50) the rotator platform, a bearing for the 3.5 metre pole and the supply of that pole plus the local 7% VAT. Total price £690.

The Tower was promised for delivery on the 13th November, however a very heavy rain storm that day cancelled the job. By this time I was getting very worried as Brett was due to arrive Friday and I had visions of no tower being up. Whilst I was collecting

Brett from the Airport late on Friday the 6 pieces of tower unit, each 1.5 metres long were delivered and sent up to the roof by the lift. The original idea had been to put up three 3 metre lengths, however due to the problems with getting the tower sections onto the roof over the side of the building it was decided to make the smaller units. This in fact was a much better idea, as should I ever at some future date need to relocate, I shall be able to take the tower away without too much trouble as it is a free standing tower and bolted into the roof with 12 "Hilti" type bolts.



The tower atop the HS0/G4JMB QTH

Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny, and Brett and I started assembly of the quad at 0700. At 0815 the workers arrived to put the tower up and whilst Brett and I were measuring the wires and threading them onto the poles on one part of the roof the tower was being erected on another. The job of putting the tower up was completed by 1100 and in the afternoon Brett and I put up the quad with the last piece of insulation tape strapping the coax to the legs of the tower was finished ten minutes after sunset at 1815.

Results from the Quad at 40 metres high, have been more than satisfactory as far as I am concerned and I hope to work many of the Chiltern DX Club members as time goes by. By the time that this is read by you, I shall be on my travels again and don't expect to be back on the air again until early May for just a couple of months, before going to Hong Kong for the Hand over and thence on

around the world. I shall be in England in September '97 and hope to be back on the air for the last quarter of 1997.

As an after thought Brett VR2BG, has suggested that I put a 40 metre rotary dipole on the pole between the quad elements so if I complete that next October I should also be able to keep in touch with the locals here who may be in first skip for twenty, as well of course of doing some DXing on forty.

POSTBAG

From Laurie Margolis, G3UML:

Regarding issue #104.. we used to see a lot of Don Miller in the mid-sixties. He stayed with us several times when my mum and dad were around. He had a terrific sense of mischief which was fun to watch but which got him into trouble. He flew in once from Nairobi, having just left the Indian Ocean islands. He was in our living room probably only about 48 hours after being on the air from Agalega or somesuch. The bands were full of talk of where he was going next, though our place just off the North Circular probably wasn't what most people had in mind. He had a reciprocal call, G5AEW if I remember, and was already a controversial figure.

His operating frequency in those days was always 14105, just as Gus Browning always used 14125. Listen to this, he said, sat down at my father's rig, put the transmitter on 14105 and said a couple of times, G5AEW/A QRZ 140-150.

The band exploded for this rare operation from Ilford. He made about twenty contacts in a few minutes. "*What island are you on Don*", someone asked. "*Oh, a pretty big one*", he said, before QRTing for dinner.

"*But Don*", my mum said, "*surely you understand why people get irritated with you -- they think they've worked you somewhere rare when all they've worked is G*". He couldn't accept that, saying it was their fault

for not really finding out where he was. It was an interesting debate.

Enjoyed your 160 metre exploits. I've managed 35 countries, though none farther away than EA8, by feeding my 40 metre delta-loop as a bent quarter wave wire. The SWR is surprisingly good, though I suspect the RF is being blasted straight into the ground. It gets me onto the Edware net ok!

(Ed: CDXC members need no introduction to Laurie, but younger readers may not know that Laurie's father was well-known DXer of the time - G3NMR, Maurice Margolis, and his mother was Sylvia, a very well-known figure in amateur radio circles in those days when Laurie was just teenager, though one with 200 countries worked after three months on the air in 1965!)

From Peter Chadwick, G3RZP:

I've got to take issue with you about GB callsigns and the RA!

Originally, GB calls were issued by the Post Office, as it then was, and were charged for at the same rate as the full licence, even though they were only available for 1 month. Under the Radio Regulations (which I don't believe have changed) amateur calls should consist of one or two letters followed by one or two numbers followed by up to three letters.

Note that as usual, the British tend to follow the letter and the spirit of the rules, unlike some! The cost of the GB call was considered excessive, and eventually, the RSGB took over the issuing of the calls, being paid by RA for doing it. So the RA pay for GB calls for the purpose of publicising amateur radio, and why should they do that so a limited few can run a special call for either a private function or their own gratification?

I don't know what the arrangements are for the special contest calls - I suspect that the RSGB will administer these for free, which

usually means that they have to be done for all UK amateurs. This means, of course, that the free loaders get away with it again.

So why do the Canadians do so many special calls? I don't know who pays, but it is interesting that they aren't renowned for putting pressure on foreign governments to get intruders out of the Amateur Bands - something that the RA have a long history of doing - even pushing the Royal Navy (as well as the Argentinian Navy) out of 18 MHz! US Amateurs don't pay for their licences - and the FCC does nothing about complaining to foreign administrations about intruders.

Your comments seem to suggest that you'd prefer the RA to follow those other administrations who out of apathy or disregard, ignore the Radio Regulations as far as call-signs are concerned. Regrettably, these are the ones who also ignore the Radio Regulations on intruders, and do nothing to help the Amateur Service in this regard. And, in the FCC case, have introduced new rules requiring a RF radiation hazard survey for stations running more than 50 watts - not that anyone has proved that there is a hazard, but regulating for the sake of it!

I also deal with the RA professionally, and I find it interesting that the UK RA support British industry and interests, amateur and professional to a far greater extent than other administrations - Europe and elsewhere. Remember the FCC is almost at the stage that if you ask what the permitted power is for a service, they have to check with their lawyers before they can reply!!!!

So I'd rather have a decent administration providing protection to the amateur service that fancy calls providing an ego trip for a few people.

As an addition to the 'Eat your heart out' how about running what the G stations are using? We're all 'little pistols' compared with the big contest and DX stations in the US

(and I heard of a big Contest station owner in Southern California who has hired in for 3 days consultancy plus expenses one of the specialist suppliers of add-ons - that must be \$1000 + !) but it might be of interest. I'll start with a run down of G3RZP:

At 68 feet: 4 el monoband for 10, interlaced with 4 el monoband for 15, both gamma matched with separate feedlines. Cue Dee beams from Sweden.

At 64 feet: 5 element Tonna for 6m.

At 63 feet: homebrew trap dipole for 18 and 24.

At 62 feet: 5 element monobander for 20 (Hy Gain 205BA).

Round the tower: 3 40m dipoles, slopers, unused ones switched to act as reflectors.

1 sloper for 10MHz

An 80m dipole, centre at 60 feet, ends at 30 feet, fed with open wire line so it is used as a two half waves in phase collinear on 40.

The tower is fed as a folded unipole for 80 and 160. No radials - adding them doesn't change anything. It goes! VK9CR first call on 80 - working him proved far easier than getting the card has been.

160m receive: a frame antenna, remotely tuned, rotatable, with a valve impedance matcher remotely powered.

There's some VHF stuff - 16 ele for 2 at 30 feet, 19 ele for 70cms at 32 feet and 5/8 over 5/8 collinear for two at 35 feet.

The ATU's and antenna selection are housed in a dedicated ATU shed at the base of the tower.

OK there's the run down if you want to use it. But I'd be obliged if you straighten the record a bit about the RA.

Countries are now 319 confirmed, 321 worked. Getting there.

Lastly, a word on operating behaviour. In the pile ups on 7MHz the other night for the 3C5, it was surprising how many G DX'ers either can't read Morse or don't know the

procedures! When he sent G3GD?KN N N, it should not have been the signal for G3R??, GW3???, G4??? etc to call. Some of these guys are CDXC members, while at least one is an FOC member. One might expect this from a newly licenced guy, but not from G3's, G4' s and FOC members. All this tactic does is to slow down the pile up, and demonstrate just what a lid you are. A QRZ G3? is one thing (unless you are GW, G4 etc, in which case it means 'Shut up') but when it's so specific that it's only one letter that's missing, there's no excuse at all.

CQ WW DX CONTEST 1995

Bill Moorwood, G3CAQ

Having safely dispatched the CDXC Plaques for this event I thought I would write a few notes regarding the activity. Not being an entrant myself, although I always fill up a couple of pages of the Log Book and dutifully respond with QSLs through the buro when requested, I never cease to be amazed at the dedication and physical effort that many of the competitors display. Even the supply of the Plaques and the subsequent engraving posed problems for me. Members present at the IOTA-HF DX Dinner would not be aware and John Clayton, receiving the award for CDXC member Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH, was most suprised when I asked him to hand the plaque back to me after the presentation. This was so that I could return the whole batch to the engraver who, not being used to our requirements, thought he was doing the correct thing by engraving the award for 1996 and not 1995 as requested. I had previously worried about the one callsign being a GI0 (zero).... he got the Zero right, but came up with a figure 1 instead of a letter I. The problem was easily overcome, however.

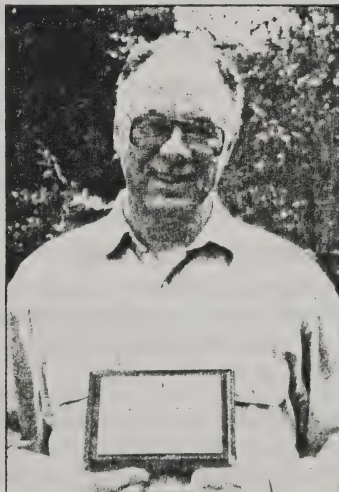
In my my first letter to the winners, in order to establish their correct address, I requested a few details of their operation and a picture if possible. I will edit all received by my extra early closing date.... We will be in Cali-

fornia practically all of December and until January 10, apart from an excursion to the Hawaiian Islands (16-24 December). My wife Edna, not being a radio person, queried why we needed to return to the UK on January 10. I could not tell her that I was already missing a portion of the Heard Island DXpedition. I need all of the proposed islands but, of course, I will be satisfied if I can get a report from those heard.

Now to the reports received:

CQWW Low Power CW (Highest score UK entrant) Won by CDXC member Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH. Phil writes to say that nothing special happened to him during the contest; he does admit to taking a day off from work prior to a contest, and a day afterwards to recover. Tries to operate for 36 hours out of the 48, having a cat nap if the bands go quiet. Tends to tune the bands rather than involve in a pile up.

Equipment in use: Yaesu FT101ZD plus external VFO. Inverted Vee dipoles for 80m to 10m at 60 ft all using a common feeder. The Inverted Vee, quarter wave fed as a "T" for 160m. A dell 386 computer running K1EA's CT software version 7.



Phil, G3SWH, with his Plaque

CQWW Low Power SSB (Highest score UK entrant). Winner Stephen Bowden, G4KIV. Steve brought me up to date with his contest successes 1990 to date. As ZC4BS he lists 2nd Asia 1990 CQWW SSB. Then in 1991 it was 6th World for the ARRL/IARU SSB contest. In the same year Zonal Winner for the CQWW Low Power SSB. Then in 1993 and 1994 it was first in Great Britain for the CQWW SSB Low Power. Most of this was new to me, but I am not disheartened when Steve lists his UK station:

Kenwood TS940, a 2-el tribander on a scaffold pole, which also tunes on 40m! Logging by K1EA software.

CQWW High Power CW/SSB (Highest score UK entrant). Both sections won by Robert Cummings, G1OKOW. No details received by closing date.

Summary.. Well, for the low power sections especially, it shows that determination and dedication are the main factors, but alas I do admit that after the first few pages, I get tired of checking to see if I have "worked him before", must get a contest programme for my Amstrad, trouble is that it will only take 5.25" disks.

HS0/G4JMB LUNCH CLUB

(Ex-VS6CT LUNCH CLUB)

Depending on his travel arrangements, the next Lunch Club meeting with Phil Weaver, is scheduled for 13 January, 1997 at The Cricketers, Bagshot, around midday.

CONGRATULATIONS

1. To Emma Wills, 2E0AAX, who won the G5RP Trophy for progress in field of HF DXing (*Ed: Hope it's not long before you're in the HRChaser Table, Emma!*)
2. To those CDXC Members who featured in the results of the 1996 IOTA Contest. Well done for flying the G flag and good luck for the '97 contest!

EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

The following changes are notified at the request of the members concerned:

G3PMR: SHACKLOG@aol.com
G3RZP: peter.chadwick@gpsemi.com
G4PFF: g4pff@aol.com
LA6LHA: hggule@online.no

G3WGV CONTEST LOG

New Version

A new version of the well known G3WGV Contest Log software has been produced by John Linford, G3WGV in order to accommodate the new VHF scoring rules for 1997. The radial ring scoring system has been scrapped, and has been replaced by a 1 point/km scoring system. The new version of Log supports this new scoring method.

Log is distributed by Alan Jubb, G3PMR on behalf of CDXC, and registration costs £25.00 with annual support at £10. Existing users who are still covered by their annual support agreement can obtain an up to date copy of log by sending a blank formatted disk and SASE to Alan, QTHR. (Cheques should be made payable to CDXC)

Users whose support agreement has expired may renew their support for a further year, and can then get a copy of the update as indicated above.

All proceeds from the sale of Log go to CDXC funds.

We thank John, G3WGV for his continuing support of Log.

SILENT KEY

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of CDXC member Patrick Mannion, G14WYU, on 10 October. The sympathy of the Committee and members of CDXC goes out to Patrick's family.

DXCC REPORT

DXCC AWARDS

This CDXC Newsletter feature lists all UK award recipients appearing in QST. This list includes callsigns, with their DXCC credits, from QST, ® ARRL:

NEW MEMBERS

CW	GM4ZFS	109
40M	GM4ZFS	109

ENDORSEMENTS

MIXED	G0WAZ	322
	G4XRV	248

MIXED	GM4KLO	329
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PHONE	G0WAZ	317
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CW	G4XRV	236
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40M	G4XRV	132
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DXCC NEWS RELEASE

December 2, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

XY0RR Status Update

In 1991, the DXCC Desk accredited the XY0RR operation that the operators claimed had taken place from Myanmar. That accreditation was based on evidence that the operators had made legal entry into the country, and possessed operating permission from the government of Myanmar.

Recently obtained information has called this evidence into question. An investigation has disclosed no record in Myanmar of the operators having entered the country on the day and at the place shown in the XY0RR documentation. Additional facts have come to light that do not support the claims made in that documentation.

If the accreditation decision regarding XY0RR were to be made today, the operation would not be accredited based on presently available information. However, technical difficulties prevent removal of DXCC credits for this operation. DXCC participants whose credit for Myanmar is based on a contact with XY0RR are encouraged to make a replacement contact for their own personal satisfaction.

Is it true? Needless to say, this press release caused a great deal of discussion among DXers (assuming that it was not some colossal wind-up!). What ARRL seems to be saying is that although you have a credit for XY0RR, you never worked Burma. A lot of guys wanted to know what the "technical difficulties" were which prevented the removal of credits. Apparently the League

only records country credits, not actual call-signs. Maybe they could learn from IOTA? Another line of discussion concerned the XY0RR team members. Many agreed that Romeo had been punished enough by disqualification from DXCC over the P5 business but his XY0RR companions appear to have got off Scott free. We await further developments with interest.

GENERAL TOPICS

FT1000MP PROBLEM?

On the Internet Klaus, DJ6RX, wrote:

"If you own a YAESU FT-1000MP, QSY to 1822KHz. Wait for the band to be open, use all the power you got and call CQ. Then monitor 1822 and also 1828.2...

"Surprise, you got two pileups! One where you really are and the other on the frequency of your spurious signal. There is some signal strength difference between both signals. However the spurious is loud enough to even attract DX or cause QRM to others.

"When transmitting somewhere between 1818 and about 1830 you find strong spurious signals in the range 1827 to 1834. Even if you do not get two pileups you easily interfere with other QSOs on 160. The unwanted signal is often loud enough to wipe out weak DX. This morning, when I received complaints from other EUs I started checking the rig. Indeed it is bad. Even worse, a second FT-1000MP from a neighbouring ham shows exactly the same problems! It very much looks like an FT-1000MP design problem. Additional tests using two TS-930 verified that other brands are clean.

"Perhaps, meanwhile, YAESU has found that spurious problem too and has come up with a fix?"

Bill, AA4NU, responded:

"Just ran the same exact tests on my two MPs, side by side, at 100 watts out into 50 ohm dummy loads. The serial numbers for those units are 5F010132 and 5F040018. The ONLY signal heard on EITHER MP was the correct one, NO spurs or anything else up or down the band. Also put the MP into DUAL rcve to see if that might be part

of the problem, still CLEAN here.

"The transmit signal into each dummy load was a solid S9 on either MP, and NOTHING else was found up or down from the 1822 or any other freq tested. Hope this info helps you find the prob(s) there. So far anyone who has used these MPs seems very pleased."

John, ON4UN, joined in:

"I have two MP's, and checked out what you explained. I cannot hear anything wrong here. They are both absolutely clean. Maybe there is a problem in your rig?"

Finally, DJ6RX wrote:

"Saw my friendly YAESU dealer today. They checked the FT-1000MP 160m-spurious. Indeed they found them. Another brand new unit from stock produced exactly the same spurii.

"They called various European YAESU reps to get advice. The outcome was: YAESU is aware of the problem. However they claim the spurious is attenuated well enough. There is NO FIX on hand to improve the situation.

"Again: Using the FT-1000MP in the range of 1820-1827 produces spurs which can be heard all over Europe. Other FT-1000MP owners have reported the same."

Ed: If you run an FT1000MP it's time to get it checked...

ETO IN LZ?

See last issue of newsletter, page 23. The information contained therein was not 100% correct. Ron Stone, GW3YDX, writes:

I contacted Dick Ehrhorn about the "87A

made in Bulgaria" rumour. I quote:

"There is not now, and never has been, any consideration or talk of building 87A's in Bulgaria or anywhere other than in Colorado."

Your readers may also be interested in recent developments with regard to Alpha products.

ETO's business has for some years been largely in the industrial and medical application of high power vacuum tube technology. In fact ETO has been the world's largest supplier of amplifiers for MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) systems. ETO and Applied Science and Technology (AsTex) completed a strategic merger in December 1995. After the merger only a minor part of the new business was in Amateur Radio products. Nevertheless, as Alpha / ETO is the clear market leader for amateur amplifiers in the US, the business turnover is significant.

As prominent amateur radio businesses before Alpha have discovered (remember Collins, then Rockwell, and KW then Decca?) it's nearly impossible to effectively compete in-house for resources when there are much larger industrial and commercial product lines dictating priority.

Having reviewed the future of the Amateur Radio Products in this context, and personally wishing to devote more time to these products, Dick Ehrhorn announced the formation of Alpha / Power Inc (API) in November this year. API is acquiring all the assets of the Amateur Radio business from ETO. This means the continuation of all manufacturing, marketing and sales activities from API's new location near Longmont, Colorado, and continuing assembly of the ULTIMATE LINEAR VALUE 91b in Bulgaria under strict US Quality Control parameters.

New staff are being recruited and Ray Hea-

ton and Alysa Drew (two names ALpha owners will know) will not be with the new API.

New products are also in prospect, including a new combined 6 and 2m amplifier. It is hoped to have a prototype ready for Dayton 97. This unit will have the same build quality and similar protection arrangements to the current HF units.

So far as UK and Eire is concerned Vine Antenna Products remains the sole distributor of API products, also providing after sales service as required.



NCDXF

The following new Officers and Directors of the NCDXF have recently been appointed:

President:	Len Gerdali, K6ANP
Vice President:	Bob Vallio, W6RGG
Secretary:	Tom McShane, NW6P
Treasurer:	Bruce Butler, W6OSP
Director:	Eric Edberg, W6DU
	Jack Troster, W6ISQ
	Dick Dievendoff, AA6MC
	Rusty Epps, W6OAT
	Dave Leeson, W6QHS
	Steve Thomas, N6ST
	Lou Beaudet, K6TMB

The Board of Directors is assisted in many of the Foundation's projects by a group of Advisors. They are:

Jim Maxwell, W6CF
Merle Parten, K6DC
Bob Fabry, N6EK
Ron Steiner, K6KEO
Bob Ferrero, W6RJ
Al Lotze, W6RQ
Bud Bane, W6WB
Howard Brainen, WZ6Z

A newsletter, edited by Steve Thomas, N6ST, is mailed to all Foundation members. The Foundation maintains a library of

DXpedition and operating slide and video shows, which may be borrowed by clubs for presentation at their meetings. For information on their availability, please contact Ron Steiner, K6KEO, at 3154 Dominic Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546-1938.

For further information on the Foundation, please check out the web site at:

<http://www.ncdxf.org>

At its annual dinner at Lords in London, the FOC awarded The Al Slater, G3FXB Memorial Trophy, to NCDXF. This award is presented to a person or group in recognition of their contributions to "DXing, Contesting, Operating Standards, Friendship, and Encouraging Others." The award was presented on 5th October 1996, and was accepted on behalf of the Foundation by Bob Vallio, W6RGG.

MORSE

Brendan McCartney, G4DYO

CW is a unique communication mode, which many thousands of amateurs employ as their primary mode - wholly competent communicators who can ragchew happily at high speed under conditions which would leave us SSBers watching TV. Then there are those who have high country scores on the mode, but can't properly communicate with a key to save themselves. I fall into the latter category, but have never fully understood why. I can read my callsign and signal report at high speed and can (7 times out of ten) send the important details for a "contest-style" QSO also at high speed, but I simply cannot ragchew on the key. If the other party decides to say more than "599 TU" a state of nervous anxiety results which jellifies my keying fist! How I envy the CW aficionados as they chat away merrily and I sit in stark terror! I guess that only being able to make rubber-stamp QSOs on CW is no worse than a non-English speaking ham making similar contacts on SSB, but it is

most frustrating. I need only four countries to wrap up CW DXCC but if anyone can recommend a good prescription for the nervous problem I'd love to hear about it.

NO CODE. NO HF....

KNOW CODE. KNOW HF!

Among the clubs providing for CW-men is FISTS, the following details of which, by Fred Adsit NY2V, may be of interest to CDXC members who enjoy using CW.

The International Morse Preservation Society - FISTS. Our goal is to preserve Morse by Elmering & ragchewing. Speed requirement to join: none. Dues: small. Our founder: Geo.Longden, G3ZQS in September, 1987. He knew many would-be ops were scared off or ignored by speed merchants and he wanted a club of ops who'd take in tow the less experienced. We've grown rapidly. Inarguable CW benefit: Narrow-band. Language-difference/voice-accent trouble avoided using Q sigs abbrev's, & spelling it out (as on every digital mode!). A camaraderie among Morse devotees, seemingly scarce in other modes.. Just do it - the Magic of Morse can't be envisioned. Very useful for handicapped ops. Gear inexpensive. The "Amicable Mode": Morse band segments are free of the decadence exhibited by a few on phone. There's minimal arguing/ debating/selling.. Our monthly "KeyNote" magazine, as published in the USA, contains both the British and North American news. We have nets and contests.

The real issue - pressure to eliminate Morse as an HF entry requirement - has been temporarily stemmed. We must prepare for WRC 99 by 1997. Deregulation is an ongoing FCC practice in the U.S. HF entry requirements move irreversibly closer to no-code. Our issue is preserving ham radio as the communication art and service the FCC defines it to be. History proves removing Morse from military and commercial services can lead to catastrophe. Licensed hams

are now the Morse experts. If Morse isn't required, it won't be learned, unless one is intrigued by listening. CW doesn't discourage progress.

Enlarging FISTS membership and operating CW as part of this grass-roots group, is hams' best way to assure continuation of Morse as a popular world-wide operating mode, regardless of WRC legislation. We're setting the example-being heard, having FUN, saving ham radio as a meaningful service. New technology is great. We're using it. We live in the modern present. But we aren't fixing what isn't broken!

JOINING Write to FISTS Info, Fred Adsit NY2V, 117 Ferris Av, Syracuse, NY 13224.

Those outside North America may contact Geo.Longden, G3ZQS, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen, Lancs, BB3 1LZ, England.

Those that can, do!

Those that can't, do nets!

-Dov Breischler

WIT'S APOLOGIES TO GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

Tim KF2UM

Oh, I am the very model of a modern Amateur General.

I turn on my new radio and send signals quite ephemeral.

I bought an old brass straight key and my fist is now exceptional.

Oh, I am the very model of a modern Amateur General.

I turn on my two metre rig and say that I'm here listening.

I carry my black HT out to Four Weddings and a Christening.

I drive to K2KJL's garage and there with glee my eyes are glistening.

Oh, I am the very model of a modern Amateur General.

I spin the dial from dusk to dawn across the sagging low bands.

My children - what s their names now? - beg to make a snowman.

My spouse says either she or that radio's gonna go man.

Oh, I am the very model of a modern Amateur General.

I'm really gonna miss her as she tossed her head quite prettily.

But chaps that write on packet turn their phrases oh so wittily.

There s a contest coming up and I m starting to get jittery.

Oh, I am the very model of a modern Amateur General.

I have a fascination for all things electronical.

I log on to the Internet and hunt for things Veronical.

I flame the geeks in cyberspace for being so sardonical.

Oh, I am the very model of a modern Amateur General.

I read CQ and QST because they are so factual.

I rack up points at Field Day cause my accent's quite theatrical.

I joined the Quarter Century Club as I'm somewhat geriatricl.

Oh, I am the very model of a modern Amateur General.

Yes, I am the very model of a modern Amateur General.

Yes, he is the very model of a modern Amateur General.

Yes, he is the very model of a modern Amateur General.

TOPLIST

For those readers who do not know about the Toplist, the following from Erminio I2EOW/KD6OAO will (hopefully) whet appetites for band-slot action! Only two G's appear: G00YQ (pos 164) and G4MVA (pos 184). Time to get those linears smoking! (The December list went to 293 positions but it has only been possible to publish the first 50).

Below the December Toplist. You can find the Toplist and the Rules of the Toplist award on Internet at:

<http://www-dx.deis.unibo.it/htdx/>

POS	CALL	10	12	15	17	20	30	40	80	160	TOTAL	DATE
1	OH1XX	320	297	328	316	328	297	326	316	254	2782	03/05/96
2	W1NG	324	305	326	308	328	297	323	321	245	2777	03/10/96
3	K2TQC	324	305	324	310	328	299	325	323	190	2728	26/04/96
4	N4VZ	320	312	321	314	327	277	317	294	190	2672	23/08/96
5	OH3SR	321	286	328	311	328	287	326	304	162	2653	08/05/96
6	W1JR	311	285	318	297	328	267	319	289	204	2618	27/05/96
7	W8AH	319	258	324	268	328	230	324	314	247	2612	12/04/96
8	I4EAT	319	267	328	295	328	267	322	298	186	2610	29/11/96
9	OM3EY	318	252	325	284	326	260	316	301	206	2588	17/09/95
10	DJ2YA	309	274	324	303	328	276	308	280	178	2580	25/11/96
11	SP5EWY	312	249	326	267	328	266	317	283	212	2560	29/10/96
12	OH3ES	316	294	324	310	328	280	315	247	138	2552	03/05/96
13	OH3YI	320	214	327	288	329	281	324	313	113	2509	03/05/96
14	OZ8ABE	296	287	310	309	321	271	292	268	141	2495	12/10/95
15	W3GG	307	219	321	278	327	251	321	278	178	2480	08/10/96
16	K1ST	304	246	314	274	327	216	309	269	192	2451	03/10/96
17	KA5W	304	265	319	298	327	219	318	258	133	2441	03/10/96
18	OH2BU	313	149	326	271	328	225	324	307	168	2411	03/05/96
19	W1WAI	294	254	307	271	323	223	302	254	179	2407	03/06/96
20	OM3PC	307	324	322	264	322	204	297	216	136	2392	17/09/95
21	N4MM	318	273	320	291	328	205	289	225	137	2386	02/08/96
22	OH8KN	286	250	308	284	318	259	281	252	138	2376	03/05/96
23	I2JQ	307	284	310	292	326	185	311	274	74	2363	14/07/96
24	I2FUG	275	247	307	277	324	246	285	244	142	2347	13/08/96
25	OH2BBF	306	248	320	279	325	246	292	199	108	2323	03/05/96
26	I1JQJ	307	262	323	280	326	232	297	222	72	2321	10/03/95
27	OH1MA	295	169	311	237	320	191	307	290	197	2317	03/05/96
28	OH7KB	302	220	314	298	325	220	302	273	30	2284	03/05/96
29	OH2BDP	299	140	327	289	327	271	300	229	100	2282	03/05/96
30	OH5VX	279	245	318	279	314	264	309	180	89	2277	03/05/96
31	OH3TY	282	276	308	294	324	258	246	202	67	2257	13/05/96
32	IK5GQM	298	252	309	293	312	206	256	154	141	2221	29/07/96
33	IT9ZGY	279	164	304	234	327	207	280	225	193	2213	25/03/96
34	N4QQ	253	212	282	260	316	245	269	221	146	2204	21/11/96
35	SM0DJZ	300	162	313	227	326	221	289	223	133	2194	18/10/96
36	K6EID	317	160	297	185	325	174	310	268	149	2185	03/10/96
37	ON4VT	288	238	297	275	303	240	247	213	84	2185	30/11/96
38	F5VU	312	267	324	286	328	0	323	292	46	2178	09/03/96
39	ON4AGX	215	277	251	302	293	282	252	189	107	2168	17/11/96
40	VE1DX	257	230	281	251	307	178	264	232	158	2158	16/10/96
41	I2EOW	310	247	307	271	326	155	286	216	34	2152	28/11/96
42	T77C	309	174	314	222	328	168	277	198	140	2130	29/11/96
43	N3KK	241	220	296	275	313	219	259	213	88	2124	21/08/96
44	IK6BOB	301	223	314	273	321	119	283	203	81	2118	22/06/96
45	SM5AHK	252	217	291	237	326	218	261	209	106	2117	23/02/96
46	IK00ZD	289	245	297	275	308	259	259	144	30	2106	05/01/96
47	N6DX	274	151	285	188	325	166	285	241	188	2103	17/05/96
48	I4LCK	284	204	311	252	324	249	243	172	55	2094	26/04/96
49	F6AOJ	285	178	313	255	321	98	287	241	102	2080	30/05/96
50	PA3AXU	295	204	320	225	326	187	238	193	74	2062	01/09/96

THE NEW HAM?

Rich Boyd, KE3Q

Well, really just one new(er) ham, who came over to see my hamshack last week after the local ham club meeting, but I think he's indicative of changing trends:

Met a really nice guy who's spent his career in AM broadcast, who got his tech plus I'd guess from his 2X3 callsign 10 years or more ago - I'll ask. Anyway, he was blown away when he saw my hamshack and I tuned around and worked a couple guys on CW. He came over to get a couple "johnny ball" insulators for his tower - he's all excited about building a hamshack and getting on HF soon, etc. I was flabbergasted, but pleased at his excitement, when he told me this was the first time he'd ever been in a hamshack and the first time he'd ever actually heard CW on the air, actually the first time he'd ever seen/heard someone make a CW QSO!

I was just tuning around identifying the country the various CW signals we heard were coming from, and copying the code out loud for him, etc.

Once upon a time I think many of us got interested in ham radio because we met a nearby ham, having seen his antennas or whatever, and most hams were on HF, and maybe a higher proportion did CW than do now. And our license class put us on the 80/40/15 novice (CW) bands to build our skills.

I think because of increased publicity for our hobby and availability of get-your-license books at Radio Shack and such, the hobby is increasingly accessible to people who have never met "the ham down the street." They just come into the hobby knowing no one. And, because of full VHF/UHF privileges and inexpensive availability of gear, repeaters, and lots of people from the local ham club to talk to, they get on 2M and spend

most of their early hamming time there. And nowadays their "Elmer" may likely be a tech-plus who's only on 2M FM, not someone who spends most of their time on HF or on HF CW. Maybe we should come up with a new term for mentors who only know the local repeater -- like a "Barney."

Anyway, I think many new hams have a shortage of mentors who can introduce them to HF but an abundance of mentors who introduce them to the 2M repeater.

Anyway, this one guy, who wasn't completely unsavvy (being in broadcasting all those years) had never had the opportunity to get a demo of HF, CW, contesting and such, at a "real ham's" station. All he'd experienced was HTs, 2M mobiles, and the repeater!

So now I'm going to put my idea of encouraging the local ham club to come over for tours and HF/CW/contesting indoctrination mini-sessions on a faster track! The reaction to this last one was dramatic and worthwhile!-

(Ed: This note from a W amateur appeared on one of Internet Reflectors, but it's well worth repeating here.

I'm not sure that I know what the answer is. Of course, we all want to encourage new blood into amateur radio, but youngsters who are technically minded nowadays tend to go for computers rather than radio.

Have a listen on the CB band - it's almost as quiet as 2m! It wasn't too many years ago when those of us living in close proximity to London could hardly find a clear spot on 2m; now just about the only activity - when there isn't a "opening" -are FM repeaters and the digital modes - BBS, PacketCluster, etc. Those of us who use the Cluster are partly to blame as gone are the days of 2m "chat" frequencies, and it was such activity which often encouraged SWLs to get their tickets..)

ANTENNAS

FW DXPEDITION ANTENNAS

By Ben, DF3CB

I got so many requests about FW2EH's antennas that I want to publish all information about Titanex Antennas to everyone.

FW2EH/DJ2EH used a Titanex Vertical which is a German product of Titanex Antennentechnik. The company, which has been in existence for more than two years, mainly produce antennas for amateur radio and for commercial purposes, too. Titanex offers a variety of some 50+ antennas. All antennas are extremely light-weight, consisting of a special aluminium/titanium mixture and none of them has traps. The program covers lowband verticals, full-size mono-band yagis, multi-band yagis, log-periodic antennas and quads. The 3ele 40m yagi, for example, only weighs 35 kg (some 75 pounds) and has no linear loading, or such-like.

Most famous are the verticals. As far as I know these verticals are the largest commercially available verticals in amateur radio. There are several versions - the high one with a height of 26m (80ft), another one 20.5m (60 ft). Both antennas are delivered in either the "DXpedition shipping" version with a box length of 3.10m or the "Fixed Station shipping" version with 6.10m box length. The sets include "Kevlar" ropes which are used in mountain climbing and a mounting pole. The 26m version only weighs 7.5 kg (16 pounds) and therefore is ideal for DXpeditions. It can be erected by just 2 or 3 people.

Because of the material it is as flexible as rubber and at the same time as hard as steel. But... it has no own static and is not self-standing and therefore has to be supported by a lot of ropes. The antenna bends like a huge upside down "U" when you start to

erect it and finally straightens when you pull the last ropes.

I have used the 26m version at my station for a year now with big success. But I also have to say that the antenna came down four times in one year in severe storms. It didn't break but it was difficult to re-erect it because it's mounted on top of a roof in my case. Lengthening the ropes with more flat guying angles solved the problem.

Prices are pretty expensive because of the material used. The 26m vertical, for example, costs some US\$1000. Matching networks for 160/80/40 (installed in a weather-proof box close to the feedpoint of the antenna) are also available. The boxes use heavy-duty ceramics relays for band-switching. The price for the box is some US\$400.

Titanex still cannot accept major credit cards but this will be solved very soon.

The address is: Titanex Antennentechnik, Burgstall 2, 94339 Leiblfing, Germany. Phone: (+49) 9427 - 902 180, Fax: (+49) 9427 - 902 181

I can answer most upcoming questions regarding Titanex antennas or relay requests to Titanex. E-mail: df3cb@infotechnik.com

160M ANTENNAS

Neil Smith G4DBN/AA1EG

I've used a mixture of low dipoles and inverted-L or loaded verticals for the five years I've been on 160 and only three of the 190 countries I've managed to work so far have not been on the low dipole.

In 1995 I worked 151c on the band, all on the dipole, and I'm up to 121 since January 1996, so I guess these low dipoles must be

some good! Comparing signals from the Pacific, ZL and VK6 at their sunrise are usually up to 10dB better on the dipole, and last fall, 9M8 and 9M2 were 10 over 9 on the dipole and only S7 on the vertical. ZS, 3DA0 and suchlike have always been better on the verticals (using 1.5 miles of insulated quarter-wave radials), whereas JA is about the same on either antenna.

Recently I managed a personal best time of just under 8 hours for Worked All Continents, all on the dipole at 30 feet following some storm damage.

I might not get through the pileups first with this set-up, but I usually make it before the DX gets bored with the lids and goes off to a party instead. This station will never be in the same league as the Big Guns, but oh what fun it all is.

If I had to choose just one antenna, I'd pick the dipole every time as an all-round performer. Being greedy, I'd also want some crossed extended double Zepps at 100ft+ and a nice full-size four-square just to be sure!

GROUND ROD CONNECTION

By Fred Hopengarten, K1VR

As it is fall, contest season and "Beverage Walking Time", I was out in my backyard yesterday, looking at my Beverages. With me, for the occasion and a cup of tea, was W1FV, a stalwart 80 metre man.

I have two methods of attaching the ground lead to the ground rod:

1) Using a stainless steel pipe clamp (the sort of item which tightens as you turn a worm screw) which holds the wire tightly against the ground rod, and

2) A standard ground rod clamp of the sort that the utility company uses.

John (W1FV) pointed out that both systems

rely on electrical contact with a surface which quickly oxidises. He then described what he does.

Using a battery operated drill, he drills a hole in the ground rod, inserts a stainless steel screw and puts a nut on the other end. He then crimps or solders a ring tongue lug to the ground lead and puts it under the screw head. As I listened to his description I was reminded that the professionals use things that resemble blasting caps with magnesium and melt the whole mess together (but then again that's to permit lighting to pass without melting solder). In any event, while closely examining my own ground rod connections, I found one of the clamps so loose that the ground lead wasn't really making good contact, and I found another situation where corrosion was so advanced that no amount of hand sanding (using emery paper) the exterior of the ground rod would restore a shiny surface, so a new hole with SS screw and nut seems like the way to restore a good connection.

I'll be spending this afternoon on my knees with drill in hand.

SR & SS TIMES

These times are for 16 January

3DA0	0317	1653
4S7	0057	1243
5N	0602	1750
5Z	0337	1548
8P	1025	2151
9G	0615	1806
9M2	2324	1122
BV	2241	0926
BY1	2334	0914
DU	2225	0946
FT8Z	2345	1414
FR	0149	1505
JA	2151	0752
KH6	1711	0411
KL7	1855	0124
VK	1900	0909
W6	1524	0115
ZL1	1718	0743

PROPAGATION *Jim Smith, 400FE*

SOLAR SUMMARY FOR OCT/NOV 1996

As this report is being prepared very close to the deadline for this edition of the CDXC Newsletter, I've not been able to produce any graphs for this issue.. my apologies. At least the text should make fairly interesting reading!

Solar activity in October continued at the low levels seen throughout the year so far, but took an unexpected steep upturn in the last 10 days of November. Average solar flux was 69.3 in October, and 78.8 in November. The lowest daily reading was 67 on 11/12 Oct, and the highest was 104 on 25/26 Nov. These are the highest daily values seen since late February 1994. This unexpected rise in solar activity was quite sudden... the daily figures from 21-30 November being 74, 83, 91, 100, 104, 104, 103, 98, 91, 88.

The running 27-day average began the period at around the 69 mark, and hovered between 69 and 70 until the last 10 days of November when it rose steeply to 80 by the end, a value not seen since April 95. Conditions during the CQWW-CW contest were quite reasonable with an opening to the Caribbean on 10m peaking 90 minutes after sunset here on the Sunday.

The effect of this activity has been to cause a small rise in annual mean solar flux from 71.2 in October (and therefore centred on Apr 96 - the lowest yet this cycle) to 71.6 in November (and centred on May). Does this mean we have passed the minimum??

One note of caution! The solar region responsible (no. 7999) has been identified as belonging to the old Cycle (spots from the new cycle have reversed magnetic polarity), therefore this may well be the final dying gasp of Cycle 22. Therefore we cannot yet say that we have passed minimum yet, and a few months of data will be needed before we can indeed say that the minimum of Cycle 22 was in April 1996.

At the time of writing however (Mid-Dec), daily solar flux values have again gone above 80, and this before the re-appearance of the old region responsible for late November's burst of activity. I have yet to find out whether this is from spots from the old or new cycle. More in the next newsletter!

Meanwhile, geomagnetic activity has fallen off from the mini-peak seen in September. The 27-day average A-index fell from 13 at the beginning of the period, to below 7 units by the end. Good news for low-band addicts!

VK0 PREDICTIONS

The following "Fearless Forecast" is offered based upon Miniprop. As usual such predictions will probably be proved wrong and Ol' Sol will probably support 10m propagation for 24 hrs each day! The predictions are all for Short Path - there was no suggestion of any LP opening.

10M: Virtually no chance
12M Slight poss @ 1600z
15M 1600z
17M 14-1600z
20M 16-1800z
30M 16-0100z
40M 18-0000z
80M 20-2200z
160M Possibly around 2100z, or later

Back in Jan/Feb 1983 the two DXpeditions were worked by G's at these times: 10m 0845-1000z, 15m 1000-1410, 20m 1545-1840, 40m 1800-0100z. However, at that time the Solar Flux ranged between 95-150 and the crews complained about poor propagation! This time life could be harder, but the LF bands should pay handsome dividends. GL!

PARCHMENT PAGE

JERUSALEM 3000 AWARD

This year, Jerusalem is celebrating its 3000th Anniversary. A special award is available, depicting the city, and laser printed with recipient details.

To earn the award, you must contact stations located in 4 of the 5 grid squares which are located in the area of Jerusalem: J18JS, J17JS, K17JS, K18JS, L17JS. Many mobile stations will be operating and the suggested frequency to find them is 14.265 Mhz. Apply with an extract of your log and fee of \$US7 to:

Award Manager,
PO Box 17600,
Tel Aviv 61175,
Israel.

JAPAN - 98 NAGANO AWARD -

Work three different stations which promote the Nagano Winter Olympic games scheduled for 1998. GCR list and fee of 500 Yen to:

Masaaki Arai,
Otake 5-16,
Nakano-city,
Nagano 383,
Japan.

LITHUANIAN PREFIXES AWARD

For QSOs with four different LY prefixes. All contacts must be made after January 1 1990.

No bands or modes limits. GCR list (do not send QSLs) plus \$US3 or 7 IRC should be sent to award manager:

Remi Vaicius LY2MW,
P.O.Box 1029
Vilnius
LITHUANIA
2001

HR CHASER TABLE - RULES

The next Honor Roll Chaser Table will be published in the March Issue of the Newsletter and entries must be sent to the newsletter editor (G4DY0) in good time.

Rules:

- Open to all CDXC members
- Open to UK non-members
- Open to those who have already achieved HR status

Qualifying number: 250 current DXCC Countries confirmed in one or more of the categories: CW, SSB and Mixed, with both current and all-time confirmed scores being shown. QSLs or logs are *not* required

Positions in the table will be determined by the current confirmed score in the Mixed category. For single mode entries, the mixed score will be assumed to be equal to the mode score. Identical entries will be placed in alphabetical order by call sign

Non-members will be shown one time only. They will be encouraged to join CDXC but will be deleted from future tables if they remain non-members

Entries to be sent to the Newsletter Editor by the usual publication deadline

The table will be published in the July, November and March Issues of the Newsletter

Special CDXC Honor Roll Chaser Certificates are available to all entrants who are members of CDXC with confirmed scores of 270 or more who have not yet achieved Honor Roll status. Certificates are printed by the Newsletter editor and may be applied for at any time.

If you qualify and have not yet achieved HR status do please submit your score. If you are already on the table, please update your scores, even if they have not changed. Those not updating within a year of their last update will be deleted from the table

9K5 DXPEDITION

I want to announce that 9K5 cards are printed and ready to go (printed by 9K2RA the club station).

First I will begin with sending the direct requests then I will send the bureau cards.

Thank you for your patience de 9K2HN

(Ed: I believe this refers to an IOTA op??)

G4VXE OPERATIONS

Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH has been appointed QSL Manager for Tim Kirby's operations since 1993 as follows:

G4VXE

G4VXE/TF (August, 1993)

GJ4VXE/TF (June, 1994)

G4VXE/C6A (December 1994, 95, 96)-

G4VXE/VE3 (On-going)

GW4VXE/P (Mainly FOC Marathons)

QSL ROUTES OF AUTHORISED SU STATIONS

SUIAA	SUIAL	SUIMN	SUIHN	SU2MM.....	SU2MT
SUIAB.....	SUIAL	SUIMR	SUIER	SU2NN.....	SU2MT
SUIAC.....	SUIAL	SUINK	SUIHK	SU3FM.....	SU3AM
SUIFJ.....	9K2DZ / SUIDZ	SUIRR	SUIER	SU3YM.....	SU3AM
SUIMK	SUIHK	SUISR.....	SUIER		

SUIAH	Ahmed Hassen 40 Al-Zahraa St., Ein-Shams, Cairo
SUIAL	Loutfy Al-Mahdy PO Box 109 Al-Giza, Giza
SUIAO	Mohamed Atif Osman 5 Mansi St., Fiasal, Giza
SUIAY	Aiman Ahmed '3 Faried El-Atrash St., Ein-Shams, Cairo
SUIBH	Mohamed El-Asiry 4 El-Safa St., Mohandsein, Cairo
SUICR	Mohamed S. Reda 50 Khidr El-Toni St., Nasr-City, Cairo
SUICS	Mohamed Al-Sabah 4 Ben Zinki St., Zamalik, Cairo
SUIDZ	Abdul J Marafi 32 G/Dewal Arabia, Mohandsein, Cairo
SUIER	Ezzat S Ramadan PO BOX 78 Heliopolis, Cairo 11341
SUIFN	Fathy Anwar 17 Mahmoud-Fouad, Heliopolis, Cairo
SUIGM	Gergis Makari 4 St No 100, Maadi, Cairo
SUIGS	Greiss Sobhi Greiss, PO Box 18, Agouza, Giza
SUIHA	Hany Anwer 37 El Suaudi Building, New-Maadi, Cairo
SUIHH	Ahmed Haroun, 15 Hendawi Street, Dokki, Cairo
SUIHK	Hosni Khater 20 St No 2, Mokattam City, Cairo
SUIHM	Hossam El Shenawy, 16 El Daher Sq, Cairo 11271
SUIHN	Hamed Nassar, PO Box 1578, Alf-Maskan, Cairo 11777
SUIHR	Hesham Y Khater, PO Box 78 Heliopolis, Cairo 11341
SUIHT	Hassen El-Telbani, 7 Moh Mahmoud, Imbaba, Cairo
SUIJR	Jamal El-Rifaie, 15 Cairo/Alex Road, Giza
SUIKR	Khaled Said, PO Box 78 Heliopolis, Cairo 11341
SUIKZ	Yousef Kamal Zada, 51 Al Giza Stt, Giza
SUIMH	Mahmoud M Hassan, PO Box 226 Ramsis (New), Cairo 11794
SUIMI	Mouna Ibrahim Moh., 7 Rouda St., Al Rouda, Cairo
SUIRA	Reda Amer, 18 Sami St, Lazoughli, Cairo
SUISA	Sayed Abdel-Samee, 53 Fahmy Ghali St, Ein-Shams, Cairo
SUISE	Said Kamel, PO Box 62, Shobra Al-Khima, Cairo 13411
SUISM	Sherif Samir, 56 Masged Elrahma St, Shobra, Cairo
SUIUN	Talal Abdul Aziz, 12 Hassen Sabri St, Zamalik, Cairo
SU2MS	Mahmoud El-Soori, 2 El-Geesh St, Stanly, Alex
SU2MT	Mohamed Tartousieh, PO Box 1616, Alexandari
SU2TA	Tarek Abdulla, PO Box 250, Al-Saray, 21411 Alex
SU3AM	Ahmed El-Sagrir, 7 Orabi St, Port Said

KEYBOARD CORNER

CQ INTERNET

g4dyo@aol.com

Since the last issue of the newsletter approximately ten million new amateur radio sites have appeared... well, maybe not ten million, just 9,999,999! It is virtually impossible to keep up with amateur radio pages, let alone other matters. Just about every major contest or DXpedition team has it's own web site and there are a good many "individual" sites which are well worth a look. As usual, prefix addresses with <http://www.> except where stated:

For those interested in island chasing I recommend a look at:

micronet.fr/~smorice

This site contains a lot of info about island activity, encompassing several major island programmes, including DIFM, IOTA, etc.

Contest freaks... sorry guys, I mean contest *ENTHUSIASTS* should look no further than: contesting.com

That last page has links to "3830", where you can list your claimed contest scores for all to see, and other places of interest. A dedicated top band page can be accessed via contesting.com, or direct at:

contesting.com/topband.html

Solar indices, and their comparison over the years, is of considerable interest to DXers. Check out this page for such info; with graphs to blow your mind:

pics.com/trs/graph1.htm

If you want to subscribe to "Reflectors", but don't know how, go to the following page for a lists of reflectors dealing with every ham radio subject known to man and instructions on how to subscribe:

ipass.net/~teara/reflect.html

If you run an old coal-fired SB200 or SB220 and need info on upgrades and replacement components try:

harbach.com

Results of the EU HF Championship 1996 can be found at

<http://home.sn.no/~janalme/res96/ehfc96.txt>

The Radio Club of Beirut, Lebanon, has a home page at:

ral.org.lb

(Readers: Do you know of any interesting pages which should be listed in this feature? If so, please send them to the editor).

CLUSTERMASTER

A new version (v4.30) of ClusterMaster (PacketCluster program for Windows) is now available.

The main new features are:

- support of Radio Amateurs Callbook CD-ROM
- automatic callsign search across multiple DX bulletin files (e.g. 425DXNEWS bulletins)
- always-on-top resizable window showing latest DX spots
- automatic reply to incoming talks (when you are not present)
- capture to file of incoming DX spots
- single-window operation (for KPC-2, KAM, DSP12, PK88, etc.)

If you have a previous ClusterMaster version, just download the updating file I0JXUPD1.ZIP at:

<http://www.winsite.com/info/pc/win3/misc/i0jxupd1.zip/>

Otherwise, you must also download the v4.20 file I0JX.ZIP at:

<http://www.winsite.com/info/pc/win3/misc/i0jx.zip/>

and install this first.

THE QRPER & HIS COMPUTER

Paul Dunphy, VE1DX

One of the Local QRPers was down in the village the other day, pacing back and forth in the park, this one with a troubled look on his face and sweat on his brow. We were sitting on a bench not too far away with the Old Timer, trying to decide if it would be better to work the upcoming Antarctic DXpedition long path or short. The Old Timer told us that he had worked them the last time beaming north at sunset. While we weren't positive this was the best plan, who could argue with success? And who would want to argue with the Old Timer? No one! Never! If the Old Timer said "*Beam north*", then zero degrees it was!

The QRPer was inching his way closer as he kept pacing. We had the feeling he wanted advice but was afraid to ask. So, against our better judgement, we asked the QRPer what was troubling him. "*Oh, not a lot*", he replied slowly, "*I'm trying to decide if I should buy a computer. What do you think?*" We were a bit taken by surprise. Usually when QRPers have the pensive look this one had, they are worried about a missed DXpedition or the intricacies of the DXCC rules. This QRPer was deep in thought and troubled about computers. We decided to bypass the details and toss the ball right over to the Old Timer. The Old Timer glared at us for a second and then turned his attention to the QRPer.

"*Why do you want a computer?*", he asked, "*do you want to keep electronic log.*" The QRPer stopped pacing and sat down. "*No, not really*", he said slowly, "*although it would be nice to have all that stuff available at a key press. But I keep detailed paper logs and notes, so I really don't need to have it all on a computer. I have an old CRT terminal for my connection to the Packet Cluster - that's all I need.*" The Old Timer looked at the QRPer for a few seconds, then tried again. "*OK*", he asked, "*then if you*

don't want to keep your logs on computer, why do you want one?" The QRPer looked at the Old Timer, and then back to us. "*I was at the club meeting this morning*", he replied, "*and all of the guys were talking about how a DXer or contester is just going to have to have one. They say that all the contests are going to require that we submit our logs on computer disk! And, they are saying that most DX in the future will be QSOs skeds pre-arranged by electronic E-mail. They say I'll need a computer and access to the Internet!*"

The QRPer had jumped to his feet and was glaring at the both of us, although at the Old Timer a bit harder. "*This is the end of DXing*", he continued, "*the guys with the fastest computers, those who can type 60 words a minute and hook up to all the obscure sites on the Internet will be the ones that work the DX. What's the point of us tuning the bands or even watching the Packet Cluster screens? All those computer gurus will be on the Internet, setting up complex web sites, with hypertext links to call books and QSL data bases! They'll be E-mailing each other and setting up skeds! Unless we get a degree in computer science, none of us will be able to compete with them. And I hate computers, anyhow!*" With this, he flopped himself down on the bench, convinced that he'd never be able to work any DX again.

The Old Timer looked at us, then back at the QRPer. "*These guys with the powerful computers, the ones with the lightening fast Internet hook-ups and infinite knowledge of World Wide Web.... do you know any of their callsigns?*" The QRPer replied quickly, "*I sure do, why there are printouts all over the club bulletin board and every DX bulletin has a listing of these great DX sites to visit on the Internet. These listings are full of the calls of the people who maintain everything. Why do you ask?*"

The Old Timer looked the QRPer right in

the eye: *"These calls that maintain all this great stuff on the Internet, do you ever hear them on the air?"* The QRPer thought for a moment, then slowly replied, *"No, not recently."* *"And have you seen their calls in the DXCC listings or the WAZ or WPX listings?"* This time the QRPer was quicker to answer, *"No, not ever. Why is that?"* The Old Timer simply replied as he has so often before, *"If you have to ask the question, you won't understand the answer."* And he turned back to us and began talking again about the advantage of the northern polar path to Antarctica. The QRPer got up, scratched his head, and wandered off with a confused look on his face.

Son of a Gun! The Old Timer had put things in perspective yet again. What could we say? We'd never thought about the applicability of the law of diminishing returns! The Old Timer watched the QRPer round the turn, then stopped talking about propagation and said, *"You know who the only exceptions to what I told him are? VE1DX and N3KFN. Those are the only two!"* We thought about it for a few moments. The Old Timer was right. Absolutely. There is no point in arguing with facts. You'll lose. Every time. DX IS!

*CDXC
ANNUAL
DINNER
22 MARCH 1997
SEE FLYER
WITH THIS
ISSUE
BE THERE!*

WAL E. HEAD

Wally..... how come
you're top of the
HF/SPOTS ladder
on the Cluster?



Easy, Mum. I just
fed in 200 spots of
W stations on 20 m!



XZ1N - ARE YOU IN THE LOG?

Since the XZ1N team has returned from Myanmar there have been many, many requests for a check to see if "I'm in the log." QSL manager, W1XT, has offered to help in this regard.

If you want to check and see if you're in the XZ1N log for a specific QSO, you can send e-mail to: xz1n@grz.com. The SUBJECT line should read: XZ1N LOG CHECK. The BODY of the message should have the following information for each QSO:

Your call sign
Band
Mode
Date
Time in GMT

One favor. If you had a solid contact, please do not make an "am I in the log" request, just send your card. All of your contacts with XZ1N, every band and each mode, will be listed on the QSL card you receive. This log check should only be for ops who may have had the XZ1N side of their one and only QSO lost in QRM/QRN and just want to be sure.

Cards will be printed in the weeks to come. Hope to "CU in the log!"

DX OPERATIONS

ZD7VJ CW DXPEDITION

MARCH/APRIL 1996.

Andy Chadwick, G4ZVJ

The island of St. Helena is perhaps best known as Napoleon's final place of exile. Even to this day, it remains one of the most isolated, inhabited places in the world. As in Napoleon's day, the only way to reach the island is by sea. There is no airstrip and only one regular sea passenger service via the RMS ST HELENA, the Government owned mail and supply ship which visits approximately eight times per year. Situated mid-way between the continents of South America and Africa, the nearest landfall is Ascension Island, 702 miles to the north west.

Since 1989 much of my time has been spent working on Ascension, where I was active as ZD8VJ. During this time I made many friends with St Helenians or "Saints" as they are known and had regular SSB QSOs with ZD7's on the air. In January 1990, I made a brief two day visit to St Helena making 1500 CW QSOs from the QTH of Dennis, ZD7KM (now G3JKM). However, it was obvious from the pileups and the subsequent QSL response that ZD7 was in big demand on CW!

Out of a total population of approximately 6000 people, there are around 20 or so active radio amateurs. This is quite a high percentage and several keen ZD7 amateurs on the HF bands. ZD7 is relatively easy to work from Europe, North America and Japan - so why a DXpedition? The answer is CW! St Helena is very rare on CW with most of the local amateurs operating mainly on SSB or RTTY on the higher fre-

quency bands. The aim of this DXpedition was to make as many CW contacts as possible with emphasis on the lower frequency bands.

The quickest way to reach the island from the UK is to fly to Ascension then by sea on the RMS ST HELENA. There are no commercial flights to Ascension and the only regular flights from the UK are Royal Air Force flights from Brize Norton. Fortunately, I still had several friends and work colleagues resident on Ascension who assisted me with booking the sea passage and RAF flight and also provided me with accommodation.

Johnny, ZD7WRG was to be my host in St Helena. We had met on Ascension in 1993 when he had visited the ZD8VJ shack. Johnny works on the RMS St Helena, but would be on leave for the duration of my stay in ZD7. Thanks to Johnny I was able to send the linear amplifier, feeder, antenna wire etc., by ship a few weeks before my departure from the UK.

Monday, 25th March, I arrived at RAF Brize Norton for the evening flight to Ascension. The baggage check-in went smoothly despite managing to be "slightly" over my already generous allowance. In the departure

CW DXPEDITION - MARCH / APRIL 1996
ISLAND OF ST. HELENA

ZD7VJ

IOTA AF-022

CQ ZONE 36

ITU ZONE 66



1564



1555



3502



lounge I found a few familiar faces on their way back to Ascension and we were happily chatting away catching up on news. Then the announcement came over the Tannoy that I had been dreading! "*Ladies and Gentlemen, the 2300 hrs flight to The Falklands via Ascension has been postponed for at least 24 hours*". The RAF Movements staff could not confirm that the RMS ST HELENA would wait another day for ZD7 bound passengers at Ascension. It looked like I may miss the boat, no CW from ZD7!

Fortunately, the flight did go on time the next day. The RMS ST HELENA did wait but only because our flight was carrying the option making an infrequent visit to St Helena. The RAF Tristar touched down at Wideawake airfield around 0800hrs on Wednesday 27th, March. In a slick transfer manoeuvre, I was in the sun lounge on the ship sipping a cold beer 30 minutes later!

The voyage from ZD8 to ZD7 takes just under two days. We anchored off Jamestown on the morning of 29th March. Johnny, ZD7WRG met me on board and we had soon transferred to the wharf by small boat, cleared customs and renewed my 1990 ZD7VJ licence. Johnny's QTH is located on a ridge about 1,400ft above sea level with breathtaking views and clear take off to the North. Johnny had described his QTH on skeds, but I was not expecting it to be in such a superb location.

It wasn't long before I had the station set up. The transceiver was my old, well-travelled TS-440S. Johnny also had a TS-440S there as a standby rig. Other equipment included an Ameritron AL-811H linear which I had previously shipped, an MFJ-989C antenna tuner, Timewave DSP59 audio filter, ETM-8C keyer and a 286 PC notebook computer for logging, running K1EA's CT software in DXpedition mode. The computer logs were later imported into Turbolog for QSL card printing and analysis. Ron, K6OZL kindly sent me a copy of Miniprop propagation

prediction software which was very useful indeed.

For 10/15/20 metres, Johnny had a 3 element triband yagi up about 60ft. For 40 metres there was a single element quad loop. In addition we erected a 132' doublet for multi-band use and 1/4 wave inverted L for 80 and 160 metres.

The first QSO in the log was with IK0OZD at 1134z on 15 metres. First G was G3LKZ at 1141z. Over the next two weeks a total of 12824 CW QSOs were made. Conditions were poor on the higher bands with most of the contacts being made on 15 metres and below. There were marginal openings most days on 10 and 12 metres into Europe. The best time to sleep, from an operating point of view, was in the late morning (0900-1300z) with just marginal DX propagation on the high bands to the north. In the evening, decisions had to be made as to which band and area to work, with 40/80 metres open to Europe, the higher bands open to North America and Japan coming through on all bands at their sunrise. There was big demand for 80 and 160 metres but also lots of people still needed ZD7 for a new one on CW on any band. It was sometimes a difficult decision to stay on the low bands with such slow QSO rates, knowing that more QSOs were possible on the higher bands. On the second day the amplifier developed a fault, so I had to operate with 100 watts barefoot for the rest of my stay. The amplifier was missed mostly on 160/80 metres and also on 10/12 metres when conditions were marginal.

Usual CW pile up techniques were employed with split working, listening 1-3kHz up. As always, maintaining a steady rhythm was important in controlling the pile up as was sending callsign every contact and QSL information at regular intervals. While on the higher bands during the daytime and early evening, I would frequently announce skeds for the low bands that night. An-

nouncing skeds and repeating QSY details clearly proved to be helpful.

During my two week stay I took a couple of days and evenings away from the pile ups for some sightseeing and social activities. A barbecue was held at the QTH of Chris and Sylvia (ZD7HI & ZD7OK) with most of the island's active amateur's attending, it was lots of fun. Armed with a video camera and slide film, I managed to visit several shacks around the island including those of Derek, ZD7CTO, Desmond & Maggie, ZD7DP & ZD7SM, Ken, ZD7KT, Garry, ZD7GWM, Chuck, ZD7CRC and John, ZD7TT. It was interesting to meet everyone and see their shacks. I just wish that I could have spent more time visiting but the pile ups were waiting! I was surprised to find Lorraine, ZD9CO, the XYL of Andy, ZD9BV also on the island and active as ZD7CO for regular skeds with Tristan Da Cunha. In addition to the amateur fraternity on the island, I met up with several acquaintances from my time on Ascension. It was difficult only having a limited period on the island, having to choose between operating and socialising.

The hospitality and friendship of the St Helenian people is second to none. Easter weekend fell during my stay and I was invited for at traditional St Helenian meal of roast and curried goat, it was delicious. During my stay I managed to attend two weddings and even a few nights out in Jamestown.

Throughout my stay on the island, Johnny, ZD7WRG was a perfect host. Allowing me to take over his station for a full two weeks, during what was his own period of leave

from working on the ship. At times he was concerned that I was spending too long on the radio without breaks and kept endless tea and food coming lest I waste away! When I wasn't on the air, he became my aerial rigger, tour guide and all round great guy. Thanks Johnny!

An interesting visit to the local broadcast station, Radio St Helena (ZHH) ended up with an interview about my CW activities being recorded and broadcast island-wide that week!

All too soon my time was up. Equipment packed, farewells exchanged, I boarded the RMS ST HELENA again for the journey back to Ascension. The Wharf in Jamestown has seen many hails and farewells in its time and there is a certain emotional atmosphere about the place on ship day. I was sorry to leave a

place so fascinating and a people so warm-hearted. The RMS ST HELENA weighed anchor on Saturday 13th April, the last CW contact in the log was IS0MVE on 12 metres at 1038z, the day before. It was a smooth voyage back to Ascension and a good time to relax and catch up on some well needed rest. A visit to the radio room on board provided some more video footage and photo snaps. The Radio Officer on board was Mr. Neil Abbott, the same R/O as on my first trip to ZD7 in 1990. Having trained as a Merchant Marine R/O myself, it was interesting to see recent developments in maritime communications and latest on board equipment first hand.

We arrived at Georgetown, Ascension Island early on Tuesday, 16th April. For the



Johnny, ZD7WRG - my host on St Helena

next two weeks I stayed with the Patrick family in Two Boats Village. Operating was limited from ZD8 as most of my spare time was spent visiting friends and socialising - I was suffering from "burn-out" after the 2 weeks of pile ups in ZD7. John Haslam, ZD8JHH was resident in my old QTH and he very kindly allowed me to operate from there. I used the TS-440S again and the antenna was a 240' inverted vee doublet at 40ft. Activity was mainly in the afternoons into Europe and I only made around 200 CW contacts. I kept daily SSB skeds with ZD7WRG and Co. on St Helena.

Before leaving Ascension, it was nice to meet up with Jim, ZD8Z again who happened to be on island at the same time. In fact we were booked out on the same flight. We landed back at RAF Brize Norton on Thursday, 28th April.

When I arrived home, I found the expected QSL mountain. The next few months were spent answering over 7,000 QSL cards. The ZD7VJ QSL cards were kindly provided by the GM-DX Group. Many thanks to everyone at the GM-DX group and in particular to Rob, GM3YTS. QSLing is probably the most time consuming task of any DXpedition, but it is also very enjoyable and rewarding reading comments on the QSLs, especially if you have helped to give out a new one on CW - that's what makes it all worthwhile!

QSO TOTALS

BAND			CONTINENT		
160m	141	1%	EU	7400	58%
80m	1005	8%	NA	3600	28%
40m	2104	17%	AS	1500	12%
30m	1478	12%	SA	200	1.5%
20m	2816	22%	AF	100	
17m	2361	18%	OC	20	
15m	2171	17%			
12m	450	3%			
10m	298	2%			

Total QSOs:12824

000000000

A CHAT WITH N6BT RE XZ1N

Garry Shapiro, N6BT

Before going off to Thanksgiving Dinner, I called Tom Schiller, N6BT to welcome him home and to talk about the XZ epic. It was quite illuminating. I am sure a great deal will be written and communicated over the next few weeks and months about their trip, but here are a few items of interest about the 160 and 80m operations. I did not take notes and my wife was strongly urging me to get off the phone and grab the wine, so there may be some inaccuracies in the following.

The initial 160 antennas were a sloper running from the top of the hotel's elevator structure to the roof and Tom's 57-foot linear-loaded vertical, with 2 radials lying on the (steel) roof of the hotel. Two Beverages were subsequently added and I believe one was subsequently moved; these were by the lake that adjoins the hotel.

Tom was the initial topband operator, but was quickly in sleep-deprivation mode from staying up all night to operate, then all day to modify and install antenna in 95 degree heat. Tom subsequently split his operating time between the lower bands and Robin, WA6CDR did the bulk of the 160 operating.

Tom said the reception problem on 160 in our direction was due to some sort of encoded signal, presumably Burmese military in origin, that covered the entire 160 band and was periodic. This signal also occasionally appeared on 80. There would be clear windows of reception that lasted only 4 to 8 seconds between grunge bursts, and in which the operator had to pull out callsigns and reports. Hence, slow senders were discriminated against, and successful aspirants tended to be those who matched the XZ op's speed. Clearly, luck was a big factor. They tended to hear only one callsign or fragment at a time. Those calling on the margins of the pileup tended to be more successful. If one's callsign was heard during a moment of

clarity, one got worked, or at least called.

There were over 1,000 topband QSO's; obviously nearly all were with Europe and JA. Tom confirmed that K1ZM was the first North American in the log, but said that VE1ZZ was NOT worked until the END of the operation. N7UA was indeed the first zone 3 station worked, during the great opening, albeit one-way, of the 20th. After that day, Tom opined that another dB or 2 on receive might be enough to pull out North American callers, and he erected a 160 wire dipole over the hotel roof. Since the roof was steel, it was effectively a very low dipole. It apparently became the receive antenna of choice. Of the two transmitting antennas, Robin preferred the sloper, based partly on signal reports from VQ9SS and others who were arguably too close and in the wrong direction to provide a useful comparison as far as NA was concerned. Tom preferred the vertical.

Tom confirmed that the loudest US signal on 80m was W6RJ, hands down. He also said K6ANP was quite loud there, but that almost everyone else in NA worked on 80 was barely above the noise. The TX antenna on 80 was a rotary dipole at 100 ft (hotel roof).

9M6 MANUKAN ISLAND (OC-133)

By Tony Canning, G0OPB/9M6TL

This was really a three week holiday that happened to coincide with the IOTA contest. The party consisted of Arlene (XYL) my two daughters and myself on a visit to see the in-laws. The last time we were in Kota Kinabalu (North Borneo) was 10 years ago. So here was an opportunity not only to put 9M6 on from the mainland as OC-088 but also one of the local offshore islands OC-133 which was only a short boat ride away.

We arrived in Kota Kinabalu (KK) early on the morning of 21st July after an uneventful flight. A day later I met Donald Soh,

9M6SU, the secretary of the local club. Donald and Rose (XYL) helped a great deal not only in getting my 9M6 licence, but with meeting other amateurs in the area and arranging social events such as white water rafting, but more of that later.

The radio side of the holiday was split into three sections, three days from KK (OC-88) using a variety of wire dipoles, followed by four days on Manukan Island (OC-133) using a beam and wire antennas, and then back to the mainland.

The initial operating period was really a shake down for the contest, which was just as well as I discovered I had left the PC interface cable for CW keying behind. A quick trip to the local TV shop to buy the bits and the day was saved; fortunately I had the tools and could remember the connector pins to use!

High noise and static levels are common in this area and this is not helped by a forest of overhead power lines, and the constant QRM from air-conditioning compressors and cooling fans. The actual number of stations on the air is quite small when compared to EU and rarely is a signal above S7/8.

The temperature was up to 44C on some days on the mainland, and mostly around the 37-40C mark and very humid. All this meant that any antenna work had to be carried out in the early morning; in the evening it was still too hot and very dark. It is strange that good weather is considered to be when it rains lightly and is overcast for several days as the temperature drops, a bit different to here in the UK!

Radio operation from the mainland was not easy as the wire antennas were only 3/4 of the way up the 30ft water tower at one end, and about 15ft up at the other (close to the air-con unit). I did have a few pile-ups when conditions were good to JA. with the odd VK. A few of the northern EU stations were

worked, mostly SM and OH., but it was very hard going; only one GM was heard during this period. First station in the log was 9V1ZV followed by W6VUN, JN6RZM and OH1MLZ then mostly JA. During this period on the mainland I made 266 contacts, but had other distractions as one does when on holiday.

Next came the big move with all the luggage for four days on an island for a family of four. Two suitcases for radios, one the FT900 on loan from the IOTA committee donated by Yaesu, very handy when compared to my big one at home. The second suitcase was for all the support kit, i.e. pre-cut antennas, wire, insulators, tools, SWR meter, coax, paper logging sheets for emergency etc. It was a big and heavy suitcase. Also boxes of rope and Laptop PC etc.

Other items included a ten metre telescopic mast, TH3 jr, a five band trap dipole, all loaned from members of SARS (Sabah Amateur Radio Society).

Donald (9M6SU) also came along with two helpers from his salt mine to assist getting the beam up, so twelve of us piled into two 4x4s for the journey to the harbour.

On the previous day I had bargained a rate for chartering an twelve seat boat for the journey from the harbour to the island and back again. We settled on a figure of \$120, (about £35) and I congratulated myself, pleased with my negotiating skills, however all was not to be plain sailing!(PUN... more later).

The journey to the island was very pleasant and it was good to get away from the heat of the town into the open sea with the wind in your hair. We arrived at Manukan Island

after a 20 minute boat ride and made several trips along the jetty with all the kit to the shore office to book in for the accommodation. It was getting quite warm as by now it was 11am.

The island of Manukan is one of several in the area that form part of a national park. This island has the park HQ ranger station, electricity from a local generator and its own water desalination plant, swimming pool, restaurant and bar. The accommodation consists of wooden chalets of various sizes sleeping from 2 to 10 people, all have air-con, which is essential, and a fridge which I kept topped up with beer. The one we had was on concrete pillars and clung to the hillside at about 30ft ASL; some of the accommodation was on the flatter part of the island, but all had a big 200ft hill from East to North so propagation to EU would be difficult. The ranger station was towards the



9M6SU and G0OPB on OC-133

eastern end of the island at sea level and about 800 metres from the accommodation we had, and this had good take off in all directions which I was to use later.

Meanwhile the family went off exploring and to buy ice-

creams leaving us to put the beam up. Outside the entrance to the chalet was a wooden patio (about 4 mtrs above ground) with a wooden guard rail around it and a walkway to the other chalets. This wooden guard rail was the only place we could use to secure the mast to, so eventually we got the beam up at 9 metres above the deck total height - about 15 metres ASL. Looking around from 240 degrees then northward around to about 30 degrees I was firing directly in to the hillside covered with big trees - the best we could do!! (Which ever way the beam was pointing, VK was almost the same signal

level).

Now it was 2pm we had been working through the hottest part of the day and we were completely worn out and, to top all that, the boat to take Donald and his helpers back to the mainland had left without him. He had to wait another 30 min. for the next boat to arrive and pay again for the one way journey.

After a few hours rest I got the radio operational and had a few QSOs but it was difficult with the high noise level but the path to JA was OK and it was easy to tell when I had been spotted. Sometimes the bands were almost completely dead but a quick look up the band to the SSB section usually produced a few more contacts. Towards dusk some stations in EU were heard and I called, but firing to the NE through the hillside was a bit ambitious.

On the first evening on the island at about 10.30pm local time I heard some wind outside. Poking my head out of the door I could see the large palm tree leaves wildly thrashing about in the wind and rain. This could spell trouble especially if the beam came down demolishing the wooden walk way it was lashed to. The number of lashing points available were a bit limited and, despite having top guys, the beam was moving about a bit too much for my liking. So with the assistance of Arlene, my XYL, we managed to lower the beam from 9 to 6 metres and re-secured it. This itself proved difficult as the mast was of the telescopic type and we had to fight the bend in it due to the wind before we could lower it. All this on the first day there!

The next day I was up early and on the radio to see what was about; there was little activity even after several minutes of CQ calls so off to the restaurant for some breakfast. Later the trap dipole was erected for the lower bands as best I could, but it would not load up very well. The location meant that it was in the trees at one end, and over the ac-

commodation roof at the other, at about 15 ft above ground in the centre.

When the bands are closed and you don't want to go snorkelling or coral reef diving, lay by the pool or prop up the bar, there is little to do except lay on the beach and get pink, so being the adventurous type I went exploring the island. I found a footpath that goes almost all the way around the island. However, at the end of it, you are about 3/4 of the way up the hill and there is no way down, so back the way I came. On the return journey I could see something on the footpath ahead; walking slowly I could see it was a 4ft Monitor Lizard!!! Yes four feet long. I had seen smaller ones about a foot or so on the previous day near the accommodation but this was the Grand Daddy of them all...BIG! Later I spoke to one of the local workers on the island and was told that they only get to 2 ft long. Not satisfied with this I spoke to the ranger staff and sure enough there were a few big uns around. The one I saw could eat a cat quite easily. I was too slow with the camera so there is no proof...life's like that!

On the Friday evening I worked a few Northern EU stations and heard a GM but had little joy firing into the hillside. later I heard G3ZGC/P (Richard) just above the noise, I knew this was the Newbury group on the Isle of Wight using a big tower. Their signal was getting better so a few calls and Bingo 1st G was in the log, rapidly followed by G0ORH/P (Ken) and G4TSH/P(Justin) the motley crew from EU-011 in 1995. This window was not open for long and signals to the UK dropped then back to the big signals from mainland EU only, the opening on this occasion was 30 minutes only.

With a few G contacts in the log now from the island I was debating whether to move the station completely to a better location down for the contest on to the flat portion of the island near the ranger station. If I didn't do it I would have always have wondered if

it had been better so there was no excuse except the hard work involved! On the Saturday morning of the contest (0000z) I had a chat with the ranger in charge and he agreed to having the station on the porch of the ranger station throughout the contest, but this was out in the open with no air con...and plenty of mosquitoes. The staff at the restaurant whose furniture I used thought I was crazy, perhaps they were right!

So, on my own, I dismantled the beam/mast/wire ants and all the paraphernalia of the station, loaded up a small trolley pinched (I mean loaned), from the room cleaning staff. I pushed this trolley down the hill, past all the other holiday makers (who thought I was working there) along the footpath for 800mtrs or so to the flat ground between the ranger station and the restaurant. Worn out already: assemble the beam, get the mast up, etc, etc. Just like field day except you have it all to do!

Fortunately there were a few local amateurs from the BORNEO club on the island for just one night who helped; even then I had to get more rope sent out from the mainland, brought in by my brother-in-law (thanks Jawid).

So now I had the beam up at ten metres and the five-band trap dipole up, but alas the latter would not load up very well even with the ATU in the FT900 so this was replaced with a selection of 40 and 80m dipoles. The trees were ideal for this at 50ft and the catapult worked well in getting a line over the trees and hoisting the wires up. Eighty metres was a dead loss due to QRN, 40 was slightly better but a lot of broadcast + SSB commercial traffic.. No band plans at all.. Any mode anywhere!

At the new location signals were generally higher by about 3 S-points, but conditions were not too good for DX paths. Twenty metres was again the main band for most contacts and now I had much bigger JA pile ups and could have worked JA for hours,

but decided to rest before the contest. So all the kit was in the open and Arlene looked after the station whilst I had a shower and rest before. With three hours to go I checked out the bands - JA and NA quite loud; the take off was much better now and clear in most directions. Just an hour to the contest start - check out SDI contest logging program in the laptop; this was OK but I had no band interface to the rig. I switched back to TL3 and the contacts were thick and fast all over, KH6, JA, KH0, JT, OH, SP, YU, W4, ZS, etc., and at a good rate of 60+/Hour compared to what I had been doing previously. This was going to be fun.

The contest started and I immediately suffered a dramatic drop in the rate because of insufficient familiarity with SDI, changing from one program to the other always leads to operator errors! Eventually I got going but the pile up had subsided never to regain its past momentum; there must be a moral here? It was now 3 hours into the contest and the rate was quite slow but I kept going in between fighting off the mosquitoes which were the size of small mice. Arlene arrived with long trousers and long sleeved tee-shirt that helped but when they bite the back of your neck mid QSO it tends to be a bit distracting, so if my CW was a bit off from time to time you will know why. In case you are wondering we had anti - malaria tablets but had left the mosquito repellent back on the mainland and this was a big mistake. But now 20m was closing, 40m gave a few contacts and 80m none at all. At about 2am local time and I turned off the light and went for a walk along the beach which was only a short distance away and decided what to do.

Half an hour later back on the radio refreshed, but it was painfully slow going and soon the tiredness started to be felt again. At this point I switched off, two journeys back to the chalet with the main kit, shower and sleep. Up early the next day (Sunday) and breakfast in the restaurant, back to the con-

test. Again little activity so, after putting up a dual band dipole, I tried 17/30m. Again no activity. Some VK nets back on 20m so into contest mode on SSB again; not much activity (Oh for a voice keyer!). It seemed that due to the distances involved and the propagation conditions 20m was the only band open for many hours. The QSO rates had little bursts of activity during the day but it can be quite disconcerting calling CQ and hunting up and down the band for new ones for half an hour or more without a single contact. I put his down to only using 100W.

However this was a holiday (I think). So I walked to the restaurant, sat on veranda and kept an eye on the station whilst having lunch. I must confess I was considering having several beers at this time but decided that would not help things. Throughout the day QSO rate was about five or six an hour, but from 4pm local conditions improved quite a bit so down to 40m again for a few QSOs with NA then back on 20m for the EU opening. The opening to EU was there but not very good today and only to northern EU(SM/OH). It would soon be the end of the contest at 8pm, and I was quite looking forward to it.

It was evident that I had taken on too much for a single operator operation, or maybe I just need more practice at it?. The main kit was taken to the chalet and the rest was left on the ranger station veranda overnight. I then had several large bottles of ice cold beer in the restaurant. During the stay on the island I had 446 contact of which 224 were in the IOTA contest.

The next day was a luxury, up 9am casual breakfast and then start to dismantle the rest of the station and return the furniture to the restaurant. At midday Donald and Rose arrived with Philip Weaver ex-VS6CT and now HS0/G4JMB. I had been in contact with Philip prior to my visit and our paths crossed at the same time which was great. We had a chat over lunch in the restaurant

overlooking the remains of the station and antennas. Soon we had all the equipment packed away so off for a swim for half an hour. After that all the kit was moved to the jetty and we hoped to leave, but it was not quite that easy!

Standing at the end of the jetty I saw our boat arrive but it had a different driver! When quizzed he did not know any thing about a return journey despite me waving my receipt at him. He explained he had just bought this boat yesterday. So we waited and waited then saw our driver on a different boat and immediately jumped on this boat. He explained that he could not take us as he is now employed by someone else. Then the first boat came back At this point tempers started to fray as we had been standing at the end of the pier for 3 hours in the middle of the day and threats of revoking trading licences were made, which seemed to do the trick. Much relieved we all piled on the boat except this time there were even more helpers so the boat was quite full. We got about half way back and discovered one hold-all had been left on the jetty... Turn around and pick this up, which really pleased the driver no end.

For the next three days after returning from Manukan Island we stayed in a Log cabin at the base of Mount Kinabalu (13,500ft). This is the tallest mountain in Southeast Asia and was on the news a while ago relating to Low's gully (we were not lost). Here I only had the 2m hand held, but at 6,800 ft up even 2 watts goes a long way, but this was a not a radio event, more a rest after the previous efforts. The air was nice and cool like a UK summer and air con. was not needed. Most of the time was spent just walking in the jungle over various well trodden tourist routes.

Now we were back at the house in KK and this time I used the beam at full height of ten metres (I wonder what my brother in-laws neighbours thought) and wire dipoles.

Openings to EU were now becoming predictable between 1700 and 2300 local time, some days better than others. It was interesting to note that the same stations in JA/UA0/VK, etc. were worked on several bands and both SSB and CW when the bands were quiet. When the bands were open to JA with good signals it was easy to get the rate up.

During this period Philip, Arlene and I were invited out to dinner to meet the local SARS (Sabah Amateur Radio Society) members. This was a splendid cultural evening of eating and entertainment with local dancing and exploits with a blowpipe from the old head-hunter days. Philip and I were coerced into dancing on the stage to traditional music but this time if you get the timing wrong your ankles get hit by large bamboo poles, which was quite painful and it shows the skill of the performers in being able to do this without getting hit. Needless to say I was not very good at this!....Philip, I think, was somewhat better - having lived in Hong Kong for many years he must have had some practice! During this evening we met Mr. Michael Chin the local PTT director and the SARS chairman Joseph Jollis (9M6JJ) and many of the club members.

Donald had also talked about rafting and I agreed that this sounded like a good idea. Next Sunday Philip and I set off at 7am to the meeting place in a local hotel, there then followed a two hour minibus ride to a town called Beaufort in the interior. Then finally on an old diesel train with about 60 crazy tourists and a few locals. This train ride was quite an experience (I will never complain again about BR or what ever it's called now). The wagons had little in the way of suspension and wooden seats; the diesel fumes from the engine were drifting in through the open windows and doors. The line was single track and the max. speed was about 20 MPH on a downhill stretch. The train ride was deep into the jungle interior and passed by logging camps and several

small communities. This train was the only way to reach most of them and now I know what the word "interior" really means. The train and stations use SSB radios at about 4MHz judging by the size of the station dipoles, and the engines used base loaded whips, which are needed due to the hilly terrain as VHF would not be effective.

The journey was painfully slow and tiring but eventually we arrived and all our personal effects were left at a station. All we had was some drinking water, rafts, life jackets, the minimum of clothes and no watches, etc. The train then travels on to the next stop for another 20 minutes or so, and we arrived in the middle of nowhere next to this raging torrent of a river.

I could go on and on about this event but all I will say is it was great fun and thoroughly recommended. One of our party on the boat had a plane to catch home to Poland that evening and, you guessed it, the train was late for the return journey. We made a rather crazy journey back from Beaufort in almost half the time it took to get there, many times I just closed my eyes as driving like that tends to age one quite quickly.-He missed it by just ten minutes!

Now we had a few days to recover before we flew back to the UK. I had made just over 1,000 contacts as 9M6TL with 460 from Manukan island. Next time I will need some help but I learnt a great deal. It's just a pity that the band conditions in the contest were so poor. It is interesting to note, however, that 80% of the EU contacts were on the last night the station was operational when conditions were good and this was the best session on the radio by far.

My grateful thanks go to Donald (9M6SU), Rose, Alfons (9M6MU), Doris (9M6DU), Joseph (9M6JJ) and all the members of SARS for helping with the loan of kit and making our stay a great one.

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AN IOTA WEEKEND IN 9M2

Don Beattie, G3OZF

Advance notice of a business trip to Malaysia in November 1996 started me thinking about the possibility of combining the visit with a short amateur radio operation. My schedule had me in Kuala Lumpur (KL) for three days at the beginning of November. That left another four days before I needed to be back in the office the following Monday. After discussing the possibility with Neville, G3NUG who knows Malaysia well, and Roger, G3KMA who advised me on the rarer IOTA island groups off the Malaysian coast, Pulau Pangkor (Pangkor Island) seemed a possibility. Pangkor is a small island off the coast of Perak, a state on the Western side of Peninsular Malaysia. There appeared to be an airstrip, with flights from KL, a hotel with a beach location, and reasonable take-off towards Europe. So the plans began to develop.

The first problem came when I found that the airstrip was closed for repair, and there was no chance of flying onto the island. The only other option was to drive to Lumut, and take a ferry to Pangkor. This was a problem, as it would mean an extra day of travel for the round trip (it is about 250 Km from KL to Lumut). So I decided to see whether there were other islands with air connections that would allow a longer period of operating. Pulau Tioman, off the East coast seemed possible, but the flight times were bad, and it would be the middle of the monsoon season on that side of Malaysia. Lankawi and Penang would be easy, but are not very rare for IOTA. Another coastal group nearer Singapore was even rarer, but I lacked any local knowledge, and did not have the time to investigate. And so Pulau Pangkor was the choice.

A call to the hotel on the island confirmed that they had accommodation available. I have learned that it is best not to raise the question of amateur radio operation when

trying to book a room. So I followed up a provisional booking with a fax, detailing the requirements and confirming a booking on that basis. 24 hours later a most helpful reply came, confirming that there was no problem with putting up aials, and they would do everything they could to help. Two days later another fax arrived from an SWL who works at the hotel, saying how much he was looking forward to my visit ! This was looking good.

Neville, G3NUG had stayed at the same hotel when he activated Pangkor a few years ago, and after all the bookings were made, he suggested that I should ask for a chalet, rather than a room in the main block. He said that it was important to get as far South on the beach as possible, in order to get out of the screen of the headland of the small bay in which the hotel sits. From the middle of the beach, it is a clear sea path to Europe, but from the North end, it would be very difficult. Another telephone call, and it was confirmed that I could have one of the Chalets, but there was a note of confusion at the other end when I asked for the one at the South end of the beach. Anyway, it was booked, and I didn't worry any more.

The licensing situation in Malaysia has become a lot easier in recent years, and a little patience and submission of the correct documentation can produce a licence in about a month. Some reports even suggest that some visitor licences have been issued over the counter, on the day of application. I decided to apply as soon as I knew the operation was likely to go ahead. My local contacts in Malaysia obtained the proper application form, and it was duly submitted by fax (having first checked that this was acceptable), together with the host of supporting documentation required. Ten days later, a call to the licensing office of Jabatan Telekom Malaysia (JTM) confirmed that the licence papers were OK, and the licence would be available on my arrival in KL. It is worth noting, if you wish to operate in Malaysia that licenses are normally issued from

the JTM office in the region of operation. In my case, I was able to get the licence from the KL office, as I also planned the possibility of a small operation from the hotel in KL in the first part of the week. In the event, I didn't get time to do this.

Short amateur operations of this sort must make do with as little equipment as possible. In my own case, I was travelling on business and so already had papers and business clothes to take. I also normally take my laptop computer for e-mail work, so that would be helpful for logging. The only additional items needed were my trusty Yaesu FT890 and switch-mode power supply, Heil headset and Bencher key, together with a small supply of tools, wire and sealing tape. For an antenna, I always take the Butternut HF-6V, but on this occasion decided also to take a 40 metre dipole. Two runs of RG213 cable completed the inventory of equipment. The transceiver, psu, headset and key go in a small shoulder bag (carry-on luggage in the 'plane) as does my computer. The rest was consigned to the aircraft hold in my suitcase, together with the Butternut in its original box.

I decided to fly to KL a day early, to allow time on the Monday to collect the licence (my business meeting was starting late Monday afternoon). An uneventful flight had me in KL at 15.00 local time on the Sunday. The following morning, a visit to JTM's licensing office had the 9M2/G3OZF licence issued in a few minutes - valid for use in all parts of Peninsula Malaysia for a period of three months. So far, so good.

Malaysia is a beautiful country, with a fast growing economy, a delightful population of multiple cultures, and a virtually complete lack of ethnic tension. All Malaysians seem to have a permanent smile, and life is fun. And so I was looking forward to the trip to Lumut, and seeing a little more of this fascinating country. On the Thursday morning, a car was waiting to take me the 250 Km to catch the ferry. The drive through the coun-

tryside of Malaysia, was through rubber plantations, forests and jungle. Part of the route followed the recently completed Singapore-Thailand expressway, which is excellent, but the last 110 Km was on country roads. I now know why there is an air strip on Pangkor ! The trip took nearly four hours, but I arrived with 15 minutes to spare before the 12.15 ferry was due to leave.

It is a 40 minute crossing to Pangkor, and the weather was wet and windy. Knowing the thunder storms that can happen in this region, I was fearful that there might be problems with operating in the coming days. Arrival at the hotel confirmed that the chalet had been reserved, but when I was shown it, it was at the North end of the beach, tucked under a tall cliff ! Not what was needed. I asked about the other chalets further South. "All gone - we have built a new wing" was the reply. And so they had. The "Pacific" wing was four stories high, and right on the beach. It had a sloping roof - no good for getting aerials up - or so it seemed, so I asked if I could have a ground floor room - I'd put the vertical on the beach. "No problem" came the reply.

I started planning the antenna location, and went outside, to be greeted by Subra - the swl who had written to me. After the usual cordialities, we did what radio amateurs do - started discussing how to get a big signal out from the island. Subra let slip that there WAS a flat roof - just large enough to house a set of air conditioning units and their coolers. Could we get up there ? "No problem". The maintenance people moved into action, producing ladders and all the necessary equipment to get this mad Englishman onto the roof. The roof was perfect - an ideal location for the Butternut, with horizontal wooden trelliswork onto which radials could easily be taped. A top floor room was quickly allocated to me and we set to work. In an hour the Butternut was up (helped by a four man team of hotel staff) but the SWR was poor on 14 MHz. I took a quick decision to cut down the 40 metre dipole to 20

metres, so that I had at least one resonant antenna on 14 MHz. I checked for any interaction with the hotel's TV system - the satellite dish was near the Butternut. Nothing on any channel. By 09.30 Z (17.30 local time) 9M2/G3OZF was ready to go !

A short call on 14260 and I was jumped on by VK7BC. The VK boys had been lying in wait, and it was a pleasure to see the effect of the "three rings on the phone" working across Australia and New Zealand. Early in the log was Jim, VK9NS, with whom I had been at the Clipperton convention in Rouen in 1995. Then it went quiet. I soon learned that propagation is difficult in this part of the world at sunspot minimum. It is a very long way to most parts of the amateur populated world, and the irony is that when propagation is good, (mainly in the evening and night) several bands are open at the same time. Clearly strategy would be needed here.

As the evening of the 7th November developed, there was a short opening to Europe on 14 MHz, and by midnight local time, it had gone. A few North American stations (West Coast), then nothing. By this time I was exhausted, and went to bed, setting the alarm to 06.00 local (one hour before dawn) to catch the grey line opening. Much to my annoyance, I slept through the alarm, and didn't get on the air until 08.00 (24.00 Z) Imagine my surprise to tune to 14260 and find a KH6 calling me. I didn't ask how long he had been there, but he had a few of his friends lined up on the frequency. Then things went quiet again. I won't miss the grey line tomorrow, I said to myself.

I added more radials to the vertical on 14 MHz after breakfast and it tuned perfectly. Now I had 1:1 SWR from 80 to 10 metres including 30 metres. This was looking good.

A morning by the pool and most of the afternoon too, in glorious sunshine, interspersed by quick checks on the bands to try to find some activity. Nothing. An early

dinner, then to work. I had skeds from ZL1ARY for the East Coast of the US (a very difficult path) and was determined to try to keep these. 14 MHz opened nicely, initially to VK/ZL, and by 18.00 local I was hearing weak East Europeans - looking good. 14 MHz built steadily, and it was clear that I was being heard, but was being covered up by Europeans calling continually. So I went to split frequency operation, and that improved the QSO rate. But don't imagine that it is easy to get a fast rate from this location with just 100 watts to a vertical at the minimum of the sunspot cycle. I had to work hard for every QSO. Significant signals from G were few and far between in these conditions. Honourable mention goes to Robert, GI0KOW, who was head and shoulders above the Europeans at that time.

After 14 MHz faded (and I failed to hear any US station on the first set of skeds) I went to 7 MHz. After 5 minutes on cw the pile up was enormous. I worked split again, and put a lot of Europeans in the log in a couple of hours. As I had to be up early, I closed at 02.00 local (18.00Z), and allowed myself 4 hours sleep. At 22.00Z I was back on. General noise level on 7 MHz was S8, and the band seemed dead, as was 14 MHz. I went to 80 metres. Little static, and a BIG signal from Dom, 18UDB. His 3 element 80 metre beam really works ! I worked him and a few others - including Peter, 5X1T, then the band went out at dawn. A move to 7 MHz is very disappointing, and 14 MHz takes time to wake up. After breakfast, I take another nap by the pool and then the clouds open and we have a spectacular tropical storm - complete with thunder, and lightning. Just as it became clear that it could be a big storm, I took the Butternut driven element off its ground post, laying it down on the roof. It is the highest metal object around, and I fancy still having it to take home ! The storm lasts all morning and into the afternoon - will it clear by the evening, I wonder?

In the event, the storm passed, after some eight hours. By "band open" time it was

clear, and the static had died down. I tried 21 MHz with some success, working the odd European and a number of Pacific stations, and then concentrated on 14 and 7 MHz. 7 MHz has to be heard to be believed in South-East Asia. End-to-end high power pirate SSB stations from Indonesia, from below 7 MHz to above 7.1 MHz. The quiescent noise level on the band is thus about S7 minimum, and it takes a lot of patience to pull calls through. I didn't bother with 7 MHz SSB, preferring to keep to CW in these conditions. During the brief spell on 21 MHz there were waves of solar noise crossing the band, and I suspect there was a flare of some sort. 14 MHz was not up to its previous standard and the opening to Europe on the Saturday was short and feeble. However, 7 MHz was excellent, although the weekend's contest was making it tough for the Europeans to copy me.

It was interesting to hear the big signals from G. Top of the pile was G3FPQ, with GW3YDX and G4BWP following behind. After some hours on the key, I turned in at 02.00 local, planning the 06.00 local start for 80 metres at dawn. During the night another storm passed over, and at 06.00 a quick check on 80 metres showed S9+ static. Not a signal could be heard, so I went to 40 metres, and started a pile to Europe. About half an hour into the pile, the storm started again, and when a local hill was hit with lightning, I chickened out and went back to bed. I knew that the operation was over, as propagation would have gone by the time the storm had passed.

I netted only 690 QSOs in the two and a half days. In Europe this would be a failure. In Malaysia, at this time of the cycle, and with low power, it isn't too bad. 79 countries feature in the log - and with a day more it could have been DXCC.

Apologies to North America - the polar path was just not good enough for my meagre signal, and the QSO number was very low - and mainly West Coast. Everything is

against North American QSOs from Pangkor - the North pole, the big hill to the North/North-East, and the relatively short predicted opening times. I think it will need a bigger signal or more sunspots before the US is satisfied it has had a good crack at AS-072.

Before breakfast, and in a tropical downpour, I took the Butternut down, and then the dipole. By 11.00 local, all was dried, packed and ready for the lunchtime ferry back to Lumut. It was the Hindu festival of Deepavali that day (the festival of lights) and everyone was in holiday mood. I left the hotel with fond memories of the many people who had helped the mini-DXpedition. KC the maintenance man who could fix anything and magically had "forgotten" to move the ladder after I had first been up on the roof, so allowing me to get access to the antenna at any time, Aru who drives the excavator (but is a dab hand on the end of a guy wire), Elizabeth who moved me from room to room three times in one hour without a murmur, and many others who seemed only too pleased to help. And of course Subra, who spent many hours listening on a second set of phones as I worked the pile. Everyone seemed to think it was an adventure - and so it was.

The ferry to Lumut arrived on time but in another tropical downpour. Violent winds and strong swell along with the rain were a powerful reminder that the weather can be quite ruthless in this part of the world. Subra was at Lumut to meet me (he had been home to Sitiawan to see his family for Deepavali). We parted as good friends, hoping to meet again. Hmmm - I see I have another meeting in Malaysia in summer of '97!

Back to KL in four hours and then the 'plane to Singapore. A quick freshen up in the airport lounge, and a 14 hour flight back to cold and foggy Heathrow and the office at 07.00.

It's another world.

ALL THE WAY TO MIDWAY THE AH4/AH0W DXPEDITION

By Frank Smith, AH0W/OH2LVG

It was about a year and a half ago when Andy UA3AB and I, recent "veterans" from two very difficult DXpeditions, one to Malyj Vysotskij as 4J1FM and the other to Revillagigedo as XF4M, started looking at various candidates from which to stage another DXpedition. We were especially looking for something that was truly needed by many, in other words, something near the top of the list.

Andy and I looked at several candidates. As we turned down several invitations to some rare ones, we began to focus on Midway, which we regarded as the rarest of the KH's, and certainly among the top ten in Europe. Later, we would be advised that for some European areas, Midway ranked #5 on the needs list in 1996.

Midway Island held a fascination for me personally. In the first place, the area is rich with military history, and certainly Midway was among the most intensely embattled areas in all naval-aviation history. My own father and grandfather were naval officers who served in the Pacific during World War II, and, later, my grandfather served as a high official in the US Dept. of Interior, now the governmental organisation that is assuming control of Midway, now known officially as the *Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge*.

Mentioned above is Malyj Vysotskij and Revillagigedos - also two islands that are of

strategic military importance to their respective countries and therefore islands much in common with Midway. In all three cases we experienced the difficulties of negotiating with military and government officials for permission to stage a DXpedition. In the case of Midway, it was the most difficult of all the 11 DXpeditions I have conducted. There was a reason that Midway ranked so high on the "needs list" and we were beginning to understand first-hand why.

Midway is now in a state of dramatic transition from a United States Naval Base that



*Back: W2UE, AH0W/OH2LVG, WA7LNU
Front: UA3AB, NH6UY*

once was host to over 11,000 navy officers and their families, to what is now an ecological sanctuary with a skeleton crew of only 5 US Navy officers, a handful of conservationists who work for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, contract workers from Philip-

pines and Sri Lanka, and a staff from Midway-Phoenix Corporation, who leases the island and PMC Corporation who handles most of the contract work for the US Government.

On June 30, 1997, title to Midway will be formally transferred to the US Fish and Wildlife Service who will maintain Midway, much like Kure KH7, as an environmental sanctuary, habitat for over 2 million birds, including the legendary "Gooney bird" or Laysan Albatross. It also provides sanctuary for three endangered animal species, they being the Short-tailed Albatross or Golden Gooney, the Hawaiian monk seal and the Green sea turtle.



One of two C-3 Antennas

We began to contact US government officials at various levels and at various stages along our way, we were always turned down. Even an American Senator, John McCain of Arizona, himself a decorated Navy veteran, was denied this accommodation when he wrote to the Navy on our behalf. Then, several months later, just when we were close to giving up the project, a phone call came from a contact in Hawaii who revealed that Midway was about to allow a tightly controlled number of "public visitors" - mainly ecologists and sports fishermen - to visit there on a limited basis. It was this transition of control and ownership that partially opened the doors to Midway and which had much to do with our permission to stage a team DXpedition there.

Within 2 hours of this phone call, we were granted permission to go to Midway as the first-ever team DXpedition to KH4. Later we would learn that we would be the first "public visitors" - or non-essential personnel - to visit Midway in over 50 years.

We had just a few weeks time, then, to assemble a team and much equipment for this DXpedition. The team ultimately would consist of Andy Chesnokov UA3AB, Jack

Reed WA7LNW, Frank Schottke W2UF and myself. Later on, at the request of several satellite operators, we took on Patrick Guerin NH6UY to operate the "birds".

On August 16th, our team travelled from Arizona to Los Angeles where we met up with Andy, UA3AB, who had just arrived from Moscow via Paris. Assisting us in Los Angeles was an old friend, Gent Paparisto ZA1T, of Tirana, Albania, who is now a university student in California.

We immediately flew to Honolulu where we were greeted by Bill Myerson NH6D, himself a frequent visitor to Midway. Bill had done much to help us get this far, but now insisted on helping us get around in Honolulu with all our equipment. The next day we went on to Kauai, arriving at the Lihue airport. We stayed over night there celebrating Frank, W2UE's, 70th birthday, then the next day we boarded a Gulfstream aircraft and the excited DXpedition team was off on the final journey that 4 1/2 hours later would take us to our dream destination - Midway KH4.

Within just a few hours of landing, we were taken to a vacated office space where we would operate AH4/AH0W immediately, beginning on the low bands. Andy operated at first on 40 CW and I operated 80 CW. I was surprised when I called CQ and the first to respond happened to be K8AE, Gary, a good friend of mine in Phoenix who was awake in the middle of the night, 3am his time, waiting for us.

The next morning we assembled the beam antennas, consisting of two C-3 antennas supplied by Force-12 and an A3WS beam for WARC, including 30 metres. Our team agreed, the C-3s performed flawlessly for us with SWR's 1:1 across the three bands they operate on. The assembly of these antennas was done very quickly thanks to very detailed engineering. There's no measuring, no little nuts and bolts to lose, no frustrating clamps to deal with - just a quick and easy

pop-riveting process and in less than an hour this antenna was on the air with perfect SWR's. The AH4 team strongly recommends Force-12 antennas as among the best ever engineered.

Of course the WARC beam performed very well, and we did especially well on 30 metres and made many contacts to JA and USA on 17 metres.

Certainly, most of the contacts came to us on 20 metres, but we had a plethora of runs on 17, 15, 30, 40, 80/75 and 160 metres. We were lucky to have two "runs" to Europe on 20 metres every day that netted several thousand EU contacts for us - all inspite of negative predictions many of the "pundits" sent our way.



Frank AH0W operating from KH4

All in all, the AH4/AH0W team made 15,000 QSO's, again, with several thousand of these being with European stations. We were very pleased that so many Europeans got through. Towards the end of the operation, we were told that "the Europeans are euphoric", "we've waited for decades for a contact with Midway", "fabulous operation", "a million thanks", etc. Now we are receiving letters in the mail and e-mail from Europeans saying similar things which tells us that this DXpedition was worth the wait and the work. This pleases us beyond measure.

The AH4/AH0W DXpedition has donated

all five HF antennas to Midway for future use by amateur radio operators, DXpeditioners and Contesters who may now freely travel to Midway to operate. Included with this donation are several hundred metres of coaxial cable and masts. For information about this, one may contact the Midway Atoll DX Foundation, Frank Smith AH0W/OH2LVG, via CBA or via e-mail to ah0w@primenet.com. Travel arrangements are to be made via Midway-Phoenix Corporation of Cartersville, Georgia (info via AH0W).

There are many people and organisations to thank, without whom we wouldn't have made it to Midway. Among these are the RSGB, CDXC (UK DX Foundation), INDEXA, NCDXF, NOKIA Inc., Unikom Inc., OKDXA, German DX Foundation, EUDXF, LA DX Group, Danish DX Group, the Finnish Amateur Radio League, the Northern Portugal DX Group, Force-12 Antennas, Butternut-Bencher Co., Midway Phoenix Corporation, the Ehime DX Group (Japan), Japan CQ Magazine, Ham Radio Outlet, The 59(9) Report, TimeWave Technologies and DuneStar Filters. And of course there are many individuals including United States Senator John McCain of Arizona, Lt. Cmdr. Karyn Rinaldi of NAF Midway, Bill Myerson NH6D, Wayne Mears WB6EQX, Ed Kritsky NT2X, Ned Steams AA7A, Jari Jussila OH2BU, Bob Johnson KE7LZ, Taka Ajiro JA2JPA, Gent Paparisto ZA1T, Reinhard Geissler DL1UF and many more.

Above all, we thank the many thousand amateur radio operators world-wide who honoured us with a QSO to Midway. The AH4/AH0W team wishes to respectfully dedicate the Midway Atoll DXpedition to the cherished memory of all those of every nationality and the ultimate sacrifice made - their very lives - during the Battles of the Pacific in World War II.

Please QSL to Bob Johnson, KE7LZ.

THE 1996 CARIBBEAN TOUR

By Ronald Stuy, PA3EWP

In 1995 four members of the Contest Group Oude Maas (PI4COM) visited Turks & Caicos (VP5) and made about 25,000 QSO's. Based on that success this year's holiday was spent again in the Caribbean, but this time on more than one island. We planned to go to Guadeloupe, Dominica and Martinique. Therefore we called it the Caribbean Tour 96.

Compared to last years holiday at VP5JM's rental place this year's would be our first self-supporting DXpedition, this meant we had to take everything ourselves. Because there were four of us, and each could take 23kgs of luggage, it wasn't really easy to take too much equipment. The equipment we took with us was: 2 Yaesu FT-990, 2 Cushcraft R7000+ verticals, 300 metres copper wire for dipoles, Beverages, L's and other antennas, 2 portable computers, 2 decoders for RTTY (P38 and PTC) and 100m coax.

The main island we wanted to visit was Dominica (J7) because we had the idea that many DXers needed J7 on the LF and WARC bands. Also, none of us could remember any DXpedition which operate RTTY from J7 so it was decided to do the CQWW RTTY from Dominica instead of from Guadeloupe or Martinique. It was not possible to fly direct to Dominica from Europe so we first had to go to Guadeloupe (FG) via Paris. After a 6-day stay on Guadeloupe we travelled by boat to Dominica. We stayed 12 days on Dominica and then went on Martinique (FM) by boat again and stayed there for 5 days before we flew back home again.

Our goal this holiday was to activate mostly the WARC bands for all continents and the low bands to Europe, and also operate some RTTY. Remember that most of the Caribbean islands are only activated in big CW or

SSB contests, so the WARC bands are always interesting where ever you go as long there are no active local hams on the island. I can ensure you that there are plenty left to activate. The key to success is that you have to be active on all modes and bands, then you can always make someone happy. Here, then, is our story:

On Friday 13th (oops!) September we left by air from Amsterdam to Paris. Upon arrival in Paris we had our first problem - the cover of one of the tubes in which we packed our R7000s was damaged and the antenna could have fallen out. Luckily nothing was missing or broken. We temporarily repaired the tube by surrounding it with plastic bags and lots of tape. The tubes were ready again for the next step, the flight to Guadeloupe.

On arrival in Pointe-a-Pitre, the capital city of Guadeloupe, we took a taxi to our apartment in Saint Francois, which is located on the north east side of the island. We knew in advance that we had to hurry to be ready for the beginning of the WAE contest; we had only 4 hours to install the antennas and other equipment from the moment we landed. For this contest we arranged a special call sign in advance - TO5C. Our intention was to put the verticals in the garden next to the apartment we had rented and we had been warned that is wasn't a good idea to leave any unguarded equipment in the apartment. Also in the evening a large group of local citizens were driving their big scooters close by so we didn't think it was a bright idea to put the antenna's there. We had the impression that the antennas would last maybe one hour before somebody damaged the verticals. Instead of in the garden we tried the first floor on a metal roof. After trying several different antenna positions we were ready for the contest, we were not very happy with the antenna situation but we had to go on. The signals were very strong from Europe on 40 metres. 80 metres was not functioning because of the nearby roof. Af-

ter a short dinner we started the contest. We decided to call some loud stations on 40 metres to see how the antenna's were functioning. This soon became frustrating as nobody heard us. After 1 hour we had only worked 3 stations. Disappointed we went to bed and would try it next morning again on 20 metres. The result was nearly the same, Europeans were very strong but they didn't hear us at all. We moved the antennas again and hoped for more success but the result was the same, nobody heard us.

During the contest we worked only 28 stations (3 on 40 metres and 25 on 20 metres). We noticed that we were able to work stations in CW so we aborted the WAE contest and continued on CW. Peter, PA3BBP and Rob, PA3ERC are typical CW operators and Ronald PA3EWP and Dick PA3FQA typical phone operators. With normal propagation this would be the ideal combination. Due to bad propagation Dick and Ronald were forced to work CW as well because they hardly got any response in SSB. You can imagine how difficult it must have been to run a CW pile-up without a lot of experience. After 5 days of poor propagation and a bad antenna situation we made in total nearly 1,800 qso's. We were not satisfied but we hoped for better luck on J7. The food and beer tasted fine and the sun was shining so at least we started to look like the normal visitor of the Caribbean: rested and with a little tint.

On September 18th we left Guadeloupe and went by boat to Roseau the capital of Dominica. That day there had been a volcanic eruption on Montserrat and everything was covered by ash. We were warned by previous HAM visitors of Dominica that you couldn't get a license in advance and you have to arrange that locally at arrival in Rousseau. We expected that we might have to leave all transceivers at the Dominican customs at arrival until a valid license could be presented to customs. When we arrived at Dominica we were the last to be checked out

by customs, everybody had to open everything and we were very lucky because they only looked in one of the tubes and let us through. We went straight to the Ministry of Communications to get our licenses. We asked for local callsigns instead of guest-licenses. After arranging all the papers there was one problem, the Minister had to sign the licenses personally and he was not in. Rousseau is located in the South West part of the island and Calibishie (our destination) at the North East part of the island. The people at the Ministry couldn't guarantee us that the Minister would be back that afternoon, so we were forced to leave without licenses. We stayed in Rousseau and would check later in the afternoon if the Minister was back. So we went for a little sight-seeing in the southern part of the Island. When we came back at the Ministry the Minister had just arrived and signed our licenses. Soon we left the building and went on our way to Calibishie with our licenses J79BP, J79RC, J79WP, J79QA and J77C in our pockets.

It was a 2-hour drive to the north east part of the island where we rented a house. From here we had a clear path to Europe and North-America. When we arrived at the house it was already dark so we decided to build the station the next morning.

Next morning at 6 o'clock we were awake and started building the antennas around the house. There was plenty of space to build antennas for all bands. We erected the R7000+ verticals (10-80m), inverted L for 80 metres, inverted L for 160 metres and a dipole for 17 metres. Both inverted L's had a vertical height of approx. 10 metres, the coconut trees were simply not higher.

After testing the antennas and equipment we came to the conclusion that the higher bands 10, 12 and 15 metres couldn't be combined due to the interference of the other station. We had ICE bandpass filters for 160, 80, 40 and 20 metres. We had ordered filters for

12, 17 and 30 and replacements for 10 and 15 as these were burned out during a contest. Unfortunately those filters arrived at home address two days after our departure.

When we came on the air we noticed that the propagation was still very poor, but we were getting our first little pile-ups. The first night Rob (J79RC) was on 160 metres around the grey-line to Europe. He worked a lot of stations from the US and a couple of DL's during the European grey-line. We now knew that it was possible to work Europe on topband from this location using the inverted-L so next day we put up Beverages for 80 and 160 metres pointed to Europe to improve the receive side. The Beverages were approx. 120 metres long and worked excellent to Europe, unfortunately we didn't have enough wire and place to put a second on for USA/JA. I think that we were very lucky the first night on 160 because all following nights the propagation on 160 was not so good as the first night.

We arranged a schedule so that 2 operators (CW and SSB) were always active at the same time. The shifts were for approx. 6 hours so the 2 other operators could do some sight-seeing or get some cases of beer.

During our stay we worked fewer US stations than expected; the signals from the US were outstanding so it had nothing to do with propagation. J7 had not been activated many times on the WARC bands and the pile-ups on 17 and 30 metres proved this. One afternoon we were lucky the bands opened to Europe and we were able to work several on 12 and 10m with nice signals. But the other days there was no propagation at all on the higher bands. Sometimes the propagation was so poor we could only work CW. We wondered how people could hear us; we could hardly hear them.

As always the Europeans sometimes created chaos on the frequency; many kept on calling and calling without listening. This mostly happened on the low bands 30 and

40m. Instead of not working the station causing the QRM we tried a new approach - work the QRMing station so everybody hears you are in QSO, then at the end repeat his call and say "and thanks for the QRM, QRZ" this really helped! Try it if you are in a rare country. Several times we had to stop the European pile-up and worked only some PA stations and went QSY or QRT. Some people forget that we are doing this for only two reasons, firstly, fun of running pile-ups and secondly, to give the DX community the chance of working a new country with guaranteed QSL.

Every day we had a sked with Alex, PA3DMH by telephone. He gave us a lot of feedback with information and requests from Internet and the packet network. Especially for this DXpedition Alex maintained a web page containing news updates. During the DXpedition the web-site was visited more than 500 times. Every day it was updated with the latest information from us and we also gave Alex a list of stations worked on 10,12 and 160m, so hams on Internet could see if they were in the log. There was also a special request from us to the DX community - why we never worked USA on 40 metres SSB? We all know the QRM story of broadcast stations, but if they want to work us they should at least give it a try. Alex sent our request via Internet and the next day we worked approx. 200 USA stations on 40 metres SSB, so it is possible. For a lot of them we were a new country. The days before and after that night we worked maybe 10 other USA stations. Every night when we worked 40 phone we tried some time split but nobody replied! There were also special requests for RS-12, We tried it twice and we managed to work 4 stations in total. Remember that all these special ways of operating cost a lot of time, we could not be very productive if we needed both antennas for satellite or spent a lot of time on RTTY to work 15 stations while we could have worked 200 on CW or SSB.

The last weekend on Dominica we participated in the RTTY contest as J77C in the multi-single low-power class. The first few hours we worked only a few stations; it was difficult on 40 and 80m to work others with only 100 watts and simple antennas. The first day we worked a lot of stations on 10 and 15m, but on 20m it was terrible - the band was so crowded that we couldn't get through. The second day we worked specially 20m because the propagation on 10 and 15 was poor, so we were lucky that we had some nice openings on 10 and 15 the previous day. We managed to work 717 QSOs and we were quite satisfied with this result considering the simple antennas and 100 watts. After the contest we had a quick dinner before we took down all the antennas, because the next day we had to leave very early to go to Rousseau. From there we continued our trip to Martinique.

In total we worked approx. 10,250 QSOs during our 11 day stay on Dominica. We had the feeling that a lot of DXCC collectors were happy with the new country they worked on several bands/modes.

After a very quick boat trip of approx. 1.5 hours we arrived at Fort de France, the capital of Martinique. After renting a car we arrived 2 hours later at Robert our destination. The location was perfect - at the top of a hill more than 100m above sea level with a clear path to Europe and the USA. We erected 2 verticals and a dipole for 17 and 40m. There were no high trees or other high points available for an inverted L for 160m. We were getting more experienced now, we only needed 2 hours to set up the complete station and were ready to see how the antenna's worked from this location. We started on 30m and we were lucky, also from this location we could run pile-ups. The next day Murphy visited; he gave us our fifth power cut during our Caribbean tour. This time it was for only for 16 hours. But we were not the only one with this problem, the whole Island had no power due to an accident at the power plant. We had nice

pile-ups until the last day; the WARC bands were the favourite. 80m was bad every night due to S9 QRN. The last night it was perfect with approximately 450 Europeans worked on 80m, so everybody must have been pleased. We never thought that FM was so needed on all bands. There are a lot of regular FM stations active on nearly all bands and we heard them many times, despite that we heard very often "thanks for the new one". On October 6th at 13.52Z Ronald FM/PA3EWP the last QSO on 17m. During our 6 days stay on Martinique we made 7,400 QSOs, many more then expected, compared to the 10,250 QSOs over 11 days on Dominica. After 2 hours of very hard work in very hot sun we were ready to depart for the airport. 14 hours later we were back in Holland.

We were all satisfied with the results of this year's DXpedition. Our goal was to work Europe and the lower bands and especially the WARC bands and that is what we did.

For those who are interested in statistics we made 19,400 qso's of which 67% CW, 29% SSB and 4% in RTTY. Divided by continents we worked 63% Europe, 32% North America and 5% rest. We worked only 3 JA stations. We made 57% of the QSOs on the WARC bands and on the lower bands 30%. So we think that we can look back on job well done.

If you would like more statistics and more information (pictures), you can always visit our home-page on Internet:

<http://www.igr.nl/~pa3dmh/tour1996.htm>

Peter (PA3BBP), Rob (PA3ERC), Ronald (PA3EWP) and Dick (PA3FQA).

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PILE-UP MANAGEMENT ON 160

Neil Smith, G4DBN

The standard of 160 metre operating by we Europeans is sinking even lower, to the point where co-channel working by DX stations is all but impossible. Any slightly-rare station that appears on the band answering CQs results in the whole band from 1820 to 1840 being filled every few hundred Hz with stations madly calling CQ, covering up any other DX with the resultant clicks and carrier noise.

If the DX station has the temerity to stand still and call CQ, then immediately what seems like several hundred stations begin calling incessantly, and there is never a gap in the transmissions for anyone to listen.

The game seems to be to send your callsign lots of times, then listen and check to see if the channel is clear, then immediately call again if someone else is still sending. If nobody is sending the you must send your callsign again anyway and repeat the process until it is several minutes since anyone has heard the DX.

Next part of the performance is that the DX sends a partial call like G4D?? and this is the cue for about a third of all the stations calling to start the same process of call/listen/start calling again because someone else is still sending (or not sending), all over again. This phase of the game is characterised once more by the objective of being, at all costs, the last person still sending.

Eventually, the third phase starts, with the pile-up police helping everyone out with helpful comments and ensuring that the DX still cannot be heard. If by some fluke the DX station succeeds in being heard then the third phase of the game is ruined.

As tempers flare and the language used becomes somewhat intemperate, a sudden change in the rules takes place as everyone

remembers that the original point of the game was to work this DX station, so everyone listens for two seconds. This is always very carefully timed to occur just as the DX station is sending "599 BK". It is vital that nobody hears the actual callsign being sent, otherwise that person has to send "5NN TU" and leave the game. At this point they may choose to become a policeman to assist others in prolonging the game.

In order to maintain momentum, several players should immediately send their call-signs, followed by "5NN 5NN TU" or similar. The DX station should respond to this by sending "QRZ?" or just "?". Advanced players will realise that the three callers are in fact bluffing and thus the second and third phases are repeated, prompted by the police sending RX? or LID or another suitable phrase. This is the cue for the remaining players to resume sending, and the game continues in this loop until about ten minutes after the DX station has left the arena for greener pastures, complaining of QRM and lack of activity.

Any DX station trying to work EU on 160 and not working split must enjoy suffering. Starting to work co-channel and then going split once the pileup appears to be getting out of control is a recipe for disaster.

The initial cluster spots will not say split and will take several minutes to propagate throughout the whole EU system. The DX station's instructions will not be heard once the pileup reaches this level as there will be no gaps in sending at all (I am not kidding here, it is truly amazing to listen to!)

Working up 1kHz is very popular, but that usually puts your pileup on top of another DX station and allows the clicks and noise from all those kilowatts to flatten even the toughest front ends.

May I humbly suggest a solution to this problem and also to another serious problem we have in EU? A bunch of extremely ill-

mannered OZ stations and a few friends in other countries have taken to creating deliberate QRM to the CW DX band by talking incessantly with no callsigns on 1837 every evening.

Landing a huge pileup on 1834 and up will eventually persuade them to go away (although they then tend to move to 1832, which is even worse of course).

If the DX stations send on a frequency in the 1826-1833 area and listen on 1835-1838, then we will have a much better chance of hearing you in this very hostile radio environment, and in addition persuade these militant chaps to take their argument with the Danish FCC elsewhere. A simple way used to good effect by a lot of successful DX operators is to work on 1826-28 and listen ten up.

Another tip for DX stations trying to work EU is to avoid the spot frequencies 1825, 1827 and 1836 as there are big carriers on those channels much of the time and the incessant CQ machines usually sit on the integer kilohertz. Working on 25.5, 26.5, 27.5 etc. really does make for much more successful operations (the 1827/1836 carriers seem to be broadcast station mixing products and vary a lot according to location).

A DX station may only be hearing a few stations in the pile, but rest assured, there will be many many others using small antennas and low power who are putting S9+ signals into everyone's receivers, and others with big signals who cannot hear the DX but are calling anyway. With openings often being very short, anything that speeds up the rate can only be good for 160 operating standards and a general reduction in blood pressure.

A brief listen to one of the DXpedition operating masters (they know who they are, I shall not embarrass them by identification here) should be compulsory for all DX ops who are brave or foolish enough to expose

themselves to the ravages of the EU LF rat-pack. Even such a simple thing as sending the callsign of the station you are working before AND AFTER the 5NN when the pile gets out of hand is a great way to get back in control.

Please pass this on to any DX stations you know who might not realise just how utterly appalling the standards of operating have become and just what the radio environment on 160 is like here in Europe.

(Ed: Sounds like 160 has gone the way 80 went years ago, except 80 is ten million times worse with lists, guessed reports, re-lays, etc.).

HEARD ISLAND UPDATE

By K4UEE

Everything is on schedule for the January 3rd departure from Reunion Island. Members of the Heard Island team will begin arriving on Reunion as early as December 26th. Operation from Reunion (TO0R) will begin around December 30th for several days, emphasising the low bands. All necessary shelters, cooking equipment, survival equipment, antennas, and of course, radio equipment has arrived on Reunion, apparently in good shape. The team consists of EA8AFJ, HB9AFI, HB9AHL, K0IR, K4UEE, K9AJ, KK6EK, N6EK, N6MZ, NP4IW, OE9AMJ, ON5NT, ON6TT, PA3DUU, RA3AUU, VK2JDM, W8FMG, W0GJ, WA3YVN, and 9V1YC. This may be the most experienced DXpedition ever assembled and they are champing at the bit to get underway. Here is the itinerary:

Jan 3	Depart Reunion Island (TO0R)
Jan 8/9	Visit Crozet Island (TX0C)
Jan 12/13	Arrive Heard Island
Jan 15	QRV - Heard Island (VK0IR)
Jan 29/30	Depart Heard Island
Feb 1	Visit Kerguelen Island (TX0K)
Feb 7	Arrive Reunion Island

During the DXpedition, updated and current information will be available through a variety of sources:

(1) The Heard Island Web Page will be updated frequently with progress reports, news, statistics, weather, and photos (maybe).

<http://www.ccnet.com/~cordell/HI>

(2) A Heard Island Reflector will be operational (details TBA). This reflector will be the preferred method of communicating with the DXpedition pilots. The pilots will in turn communicate with the Island team via PACSAT. The objective is to establish a reliable communications link from the expedition team to the DX community and vice versa to allow for suggestions, comments, feedback, and other vital information. The pilot stations are: ON4UN (chief pilot), N1DG (WB2DND), K0EU, W0EK (WD0AEK), W2FJ/6 (WA2FIJ/6), W4WW (N4PYD), and JH1ROJ.

(3) Heard Island Information Net - 75m SSB (Times and frequencies TBA)

There is a possibility of radio operations from Crozet and Kerguelen. However according to our sources, the length of stay on these islands is quite short and dependent on boat schedules and weather. Additionally, we are told there is no place to stay the night and no masts to support antennas. They do have visas, radio licenses, and permission to go ashore and a huge desire to come on the air, if at all possible. They rate the possibilities now at 50/50. While en route aboard the MARION DUFRESNE, they will be quite active as TO0R/MM.

Upon arrival on Heard Island, the NCDXF beacon will be installed. VK0IR/B will be transmitting on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24930, and 28200. The beacon will transmit for ten seconds on each band, every three minutes. Feedback (via the pilots) as to frequencies, times of peak propagation, signal

strength, LP vs SP etc are very important. Because the beacon will be operational 2 or 3 days prior to radio operations beginning, your reports will be helpful in setting the operating plan for the first days of operation. Also, a special 160m beacon will be operational on 1826.5.

The Heard team is very grateful for the donations received thus far from the DX community. The list of contributors can be found on the Heard Island web page. Additional contributions are still needed for this very expensive project and should be sent via either of the following addresses:

Heard Island DXpedition
c/o Bob Allphin, K4UEE
4235 Blackland Dr.
Marietta, GA. 30067

OR

Heard Island DXpedition
c/o Bob Schmieder, KK6EK
4295 Walnut Blvd.
Walnut Creek, CA. 94596

Souvenir mugs and T-shirts are available. Please check the web page for pictures and pricing.

JH1AJT VISITS P5

Yasu, JH1AJT and Jun, JH4RHF visited Pyongyang, DPRK or North Korea from October 22 to 26. They were invited by DPRK-Japan friendship association. This visit was possible thanks to the help of Japan North Korean Resident Athletic Association. Yasu and Jun studied amateur radio activities and exchanged technical information to spread ham radio in North Korea.

During their visit, they met a senior commissioner of Amateur Radio Association under the National Athletic Committee, Mr. Park Kwang Sop and those who concerned to exchange opinions. They also set up a ham radio facility and introduced it to their counterpart.

IS CY9 NEEDED ON 160?

Just doing an informal survey folks. Would really appreciate you taking 10 seconds and reply with anything you have to contribute so as to possibly better serve YOU the DXers in the future.

There exists a chance we may do CY9-St.Paul Island next summer, and include Top Band if there is call for it. Do you or anyone you know still need this one on 160m?. (or any other band) I know WA4DAN/CY9 and crew did a good job a couple of years ago, as did the 9's that were there and even the VE2's too. What I really don't know is how many QSO's they had on what bands including TOP. If you could shed a little light maybe we will include a big, bigger or biggest antenna if and when we go.

Michael & Coreen Smith,
271 Smith Rd, Waterville,
Sunbury Co, NB,
Canada E2V 3V6

ZS8IR 160M UPDATE

Chris Burger, ZS6EZ

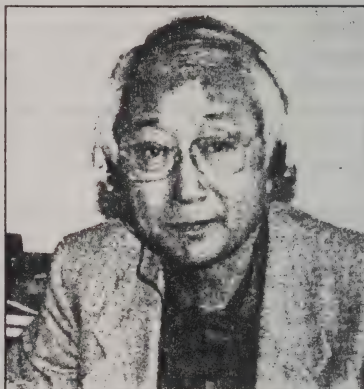
Chris has been taken off the air by the gale force winds again (*Ed*: mid-December). Marion Island has gale force winds for around 110 days per annum - not your average holiday destination.

He's worked around 110 stations outside the continent, and is having fun on 160. To get a feeling for what he's faced with, keep in mind that the closest major concentration of hams is in Italy, about 5500 miles to the north. Also, we are now in the thunderstorm season. He's investigating several options for getting back on the low bands, including fixing the BCS (Battle Creek Special) and finding a way of matching the Rhombics. I would think that the BCS would be a better option, but it remains to be seen if he can find the bits to fix it. The ideal solution is probably to get both antennas running, so that there is some kind of backup in the (likely) event of another failure.

Excellent technical support is being provided by the BCS crew (W0CD, W8UVZ and K8GG). However, the antenna was obviously not designed for sustained winds of over 50 knots. The version they have built for Heard Island includes much beefier construction features. The antenna that Chris is using was designed to be as portable as possible. Portability was an important requirement, as he had to carry a radio, an amplifier and all the necessary antenna hardware in his personal luggage allowance on the ship!

Incidentally, the particular BCS is a veteran of the 3Y5X, 8Q7AJ, ZS0Z, V51Z, ZS9Z, 7P8EN, 3DA0Z, 3DA/G3SXXW, 3DA/G3TXF, 3DA/G4FAM and other expeditions. Most of the readers on this Reflector probably owe at least one new one to this particular antenna. It came my way in 1990, and has been living in southern Africa ever since. It was donated to the NCDXF, but the BCS guys have continued to support it faithfully.

One more thing: I have mailed something like 1000 ZS8IR QSL cards. With the exception of a few apparent "not in log" cards that require further scrutiny, everything received in May, June and July has been taken care of. Please don't submit duplicate requests until then.



Top Gun - Kan, JA1BK

QRZ CONTEST *Kex Chandler, G0DRH*

Welcome to the QRZ Contest section of CDXC Newsletter. I hope you all had a happy Christmas, and wish you all a happy new year, I trust that you all had a good competitive couple of months contesting. There should be something for everyone at this time of year. In this Issue, there is a wide range of contest related topics to keep you interested over the Xmas holidays. Brian Coyne, G4ODV, has an interesting article titled RUN or MULT, Brian does have a few good points there. Like him I too was refused a QSO by the same station, and I suspect many more stations were given the cold shoulder too. If you do have any comments to make regarding this then please let's have them for the next Newsletter. January, is AFS, or Affiliated Societies Team Contest, plus the start of the LF Cumulatives, (see date/times etc. in rules). Please make an effort to support your club in AFS. February, and March see a couple of fairly straightforward contests just to get you in the festive mood for the new year. The RSGB 1.8Mhz CW contest is only 4 hours long, It is competitive, but you don't have to be a winner to compete ! It is surprising what a few watts can do. Why not give it a try.

Another good contest to enter at this time of year, is the ARRL-DX CW event in February, This contest is easy as you only work

USA stations; USA works the rest of the World. Again, you don't have to be a winner to compete and if you happen to work 500 stations you get a very nice Certificate for your efforts, so well worth it. In March, the ARRL-DX SSB event, is the same as the CW contest.

I know I remarked on this contest in the November newsletter but March is the 60TH Anniversary of the COMMONWEALTH contest. To celebrate the anniversary, the HF Contests Committee has introduced a new restricted section putting up special 60th anniversary certificates to ALL entrants who make more than 50 Band-Call Area contacts in the 97 contest. Also, a special medal will be awarded to the person who has most improved their score or contributed most to the contest over the years. Hopefully, I say again hopefully, there will be more DX this year to work than last year !. UK stations do need to do their bit and make a show on QRGs as well as DX stations, to make any contest work especially BERU the activity has got to be universal. Finally, please remember to try and keep your speed down at times during a contest. It really does pay dividends, and gives the slower speed operator/casual points giver, a fair chance to work you. After all, it is their contact you are after !. Have Fun.

HS1AZ ON 160M

By Dan Robbins, KL7Y

Here's the story of the recent HS1AZ operation on 160 metres.

N6AA, N6ZZ, W6MKB, W6XD, AB6BH, OH2KI and KL7Y went to Thailand to operate the CQ WW SSB contest. We had requested the call HS1AZ for the contest. In addition we had requested 80 and 160 metre

privileges; while those bands are not normally allowed in HS, the Post & Telegraph Dept has allowed operation there in past contests so we expected no problems. The local Thais said we would get permission for the contest on the day before.

We were to operate from the HS0AC club station located at the Asian Institute of Technology. There was a lot of station work to be done prior to the contest and this included antennas. On Wednesday, I went to

work on a 160 metre antenna. Since this was the end of the monsoon season, the ground was saturated with moisture, so an inverted L was a logical choice. Unfortunately, there was a lot of foot traffic around the ham shack building so an antenna hot with RF at ground level was deemed not a wise choice. The second choice was a quarter-wave sloper. We had just installed an A3 tribander on a 25 metre tower and I tied the half sloper right underneath the A3 with the help of some locals. The last few feet of the sloper had to run close to horizontal to keep the RF above the heads of passers-by. I tied the sloper off into an immense bush with razor sharp thorns which assured that nobody would fool with the antenna. The half sloper ran out from the well-grounded tower over a drainage ditch filled with water. I had to stand in mud to tie the far end off in the razor bush, so the ground seemed good.

Took a listen on 160 - the S metre pegged on the TS-950. Garbage all over the band. Threw in 10 db attenuation, not much help. At 20 db of attenuation the garbage dropped way down, but who wants to work 160 with 20 db in the front end? Tried the AIP with no attenuation, still lots of garbage. So much for the front end of the TS-950. Tried an ICE 160 m bandpass filter, the garbage disappeared and the noise level dropped to S3 at some spots with the RF gain wide open. Had some carriers or birdies between 1830 and 1850, but there were holes at 1831, 1833, etc. Below 1830 was not too good, and there was a huge signal at 1908 - 40 over 2nd harmonic of BCB station. Good luck JAs. Didn't get to listen in the evening either Wednesday or Thursday as we had dinners and get-togethers planned with local HS hams.

Friday AM arrived, still no HS1AZ permission. Apparently the guy at PTD who was working on our license request had been in hospital and so nothing got done. N6AA and N6ZZ visit the PTD and Thai hams go out

of their way to help. Friday afternoon, we get the call - HS1AZ licensed to operate the days of the contest plus the day before the contest. And 160 and 80 metre permission granted. Whew!

So Friday evening I hit 160 metres with HS1AZ. No signals, although the band is quiet. 80 is almost as bad. Later on 80 starts to perk a little and around midnight 160 opens. I believe the first station I worked was RA3AUU. I go on to work over a dozen stations, mostly EU, but the band dies in less than an hour. I get up early, about an hour before sunrise and proceed to run about 25 stations, mostly EU before the band dies. The signals are very strange. Rapid QSB, unlike the slow fades we get up north. Typically I hear part of a call well out of the noise and can't hear the rest. Nobody is very loud and I can tell some are having a tough time copying me. I expected loud signals on 160 with big static crashes, but everybody is weak and the occasional static crash isn't nearly as much of a problem as the QSB is. The QSB continues like this all weekend.

The contest is on Saturday. First signal out of the murk is IG9. I easily work him as his signal builds. He runs a solid S9 thereafter with peaks to 20 over. SM6DOI gets up to S9 plus 5, but he can't hear me. I also hear him most of the night. YU1ZZ hits S9 on peaks, but he doesn't hear me either. HA8BE doesn't hear me. I call Europeans all night, but none hear me. Spend most of my time on 80 with a little better luck, but not much. I wind up with 3 topband QSOs the first contest night, pretty sad.

The second night is about the same as the first, although stations are even weaker. The IG9 is in most of the night, but rarely climbs above S9. I do manage to get SM6DOI to hear me, but things are pretty poor. Wind up with 7 QSOs for the whole contest. I listen on some of the other antennas, thinking maybe the sloper is hurting, but it hears things no other antenna hears. In fact, I use

the same sloper on 80 a lot (with a tuner) as it hears and works some 80 metre stations better than the 80 m inverted vee.

I get back on Monday evening, the last night permitted. Plan to try 160 at 1430Z in hopes of hearing some West Coast. 80 metres opens that way and NI6T convinces me to go to 160 a little earlier. Drop down there and immediately hear NI6T about 2 S units out of the noise. Work him - he even peaks S7 for a bit - that's about 4 S units out of the noise. Don't hear any other signal. Absolutely none. A few minutes later a signal starts building and it's N7UA. He gets to about S5 and stays there long enough for a QSO. Then nothing again. Finally I hear one more signal come up out of the noise - it's K7IDX, and I work him. Nothing after that, despite repeated CQs. Over an hour later I work some more EU's, including a 3rd QSO with HA8BE. After the band fades I go back to 80. JA3MHV tries to get me to go to 160 for JA. I explain I have tried, but the JA window is really clobbered. Finally decide to try 1912, it's on the down-slope of the nasty QRM on 1908. We make the QSO - he's surprisingly loud and just squeaks over the QRM. I call for JAs for a while after that, but no luck. Finally it's time to shut things down.

All in all I made about 65 QSOs on topband, which wasn't anywhere close to what I had hoped for. While I know I didn't hear as well as I could have, an S3 noise level is not that bad, I think a lot of topbanders would be happy with that low of a noise level. I know I sure called a lot of guys who could not hear me. I don't understand the rapid QSB problem, it wasn't the radio - I used a TS-940 during the contest and a TS-950 outside of the contest and they both showed the rapid QSB. Interestingly enough, the QSB on the West Coast guys was much slower than the QSB on EU. It's also hard to fathom that I heard NI6T peak 4 S units above the noise and nobody else within probably 25 or 30 dB for a couple of min-

utes. Similar thing with the EU stations - one would peak head and shoulders above the rest for a short period. It was certainly strange. One other thing I noticed was that as long as 15 and 20 were open in the contest, 80 and 160 were pretty poor. I know once 15 completely died then reopened later and 160 enjoyed a brief opening when 15 was out. Maybe sporadic E at 21 MHz is blanketing E at 1.8 MHz?

All QSLs for HS1AZ on any band go to K6VNX, not via HS bureau or any HS station. I do not have logs, I do not have QSLs.

Finally, there should be a multi-op CW operation from the same QTH in CQ WW CW contest. Maybe they will have more luck on 160?

CQWW 160M SO

Milt Jensen N5IA

This is intended for those who requested a report on my portable operation from a mountain top as single op, 160 M. only, in the CQWW SSB 'test. Hopefully I have answered all questions that were asked. For all others, it is contest related and might be of interest.

I selected the contest site for the purpose of trying out for myself the theory of the effect of terrain in the far field (Fresnel Zone) on the take off angle of the transmitted signal. The site is some 50 miles west of my home, in the Pinaleno Mountains, near Safford, Arizona. The location is called Heliograph Peak, and received it's name from being a main relay site for the US Army's Heliograph communications system during the 1880s calvary period. Heliograph Peak is a dedicated communications site administered by the US Forest Service with six two way radio/microwave facilities. Electrical power is generated on site. For the facility I operated from, the power is from photovoltaics with backup from a 7.5 kW diesel powered

generator.

Heliograph Peak is 10,028 feet (3,050 metres) high with very steep slopes on all sides except the north west. Even that direction drops 1,000 feet in less than one mile. At 5 wavelengths from the peak for 300 degrees of the compass, the terrain has dropped off more than 1,000 feet. I felt that this was a nearly ideal location to do some testing, which has relatively good access and some facilities in place to work with. As you will see, Murphy visited in the form of Mother Nature and did not allow for a real conclusive test.

I left home after work on Wednesday evening and drove to the site. I spent the remainder of the evening unpacking and setting up the radio and computer equipment. This was located in the building which belongs to our local radio club.

Thursday was a beautiful clear calm day with a high temp of 40 degrees F. I started building and installing the transmit antenna. This was a full size 1/4 wave length wire ground plane suspended from a catenary wire between two 150 foot high towers. The feed point was approximately 15 feet above ground, with 16 elevated radials. Fed directly with 50 Ohm coax, the antenna resonated at 1.835 MHz with slightly less than 2:1 VSWR.

An early evening call to an HC8 received a quick 5-9 response. Friday morning a KH8 was calling CQ NA. One call and he came right back giving me another 5-9. This was with just 100 Watts from the transceiver. 240 Volt power had not yet been wired to the amplifier. It appeared the transmit antenna would work well.

The weather Friday was another story. The wind started early, producing peak gusts of 60-65 MPH by mid afternoon. The day was spent installing two, 2 wire Beverage antennas for receiving. The antennas started on one side of the peak, went up over the top,

and down the other side. Each was 2 wave lengths long, with one oriented 80/260 degrees and the other 140/320 degrees. A third antenna oriented at 20/200 degrees was planned, but I ran out of time. By late afternoon it was sleeting with the temp hovering just above freezing. I finished the antennas at 0000 Z (contest start time), wired the 240 VAC line from the generator to the amplifier, and was ready to go at sundown (0100 Z).

The east Beverage was picking up lots of signals, and PJ9E was the 1st contact. The first hour produced 7 Zones and 7 countries along with a lot of Zone 4 & 5 contacts. I believe that I was the Zone 3 contact for a great percentage of the Zone 4 & 5 160 metre stations.

It seemed that I was being heard very well. My experience from my home station has been that the east coast stations do not hear my signal well until 0300-0400 Z.

Then the approaching storm upped the QRN level till the S meter was reading over 9 off the Beverages. I was unable to copy any station with exception of the very loud ones.

It started to snow heavily at 2 am and snow static was added to the listening menu. By 8 am Saturday there was 12 inches of snow on the ground, and still falling lightly.

I slept during the day Saturday. When I awoke and went outside, I found that the snow and ice had built up on the transmit antenna. The base of the vertical was going up and down about 6 feet as the wind blew the ice laden vertical up to 20 feet out of line. Ten of the 16 radials were broken off at the base. I managed to get all of the radials reattached before it got too dark. When I checked the antenna with power, the VSWR was very high. At the time I suspected the ice build-up was the culprit, and the antenna was detuned. So, little radiated power and difficulty getting stations to hear me. I was surprised to have both KH6, KH8 and others

call me. The Beverages were outstanding. Jack, KH6CC was barely noticeable on the east antenna, and a strong standout S-9 on the west antenna.

It all came to an end about midnight Saturday when the combination of ice build-up and wind took the whole transmitting antenna down. I just went to bed and slept the rest of the night.

Early Sunday morning I started packing everything up. Once outside, it was digging all the radials, vertical element, Beverages and transformer boxes, antenna switch box, etc. out of the snow. The visibility was 50 feet and still snowing lightly. The upper portion of the vertical wire had 3 1/2 inch diameter radial ice on it. No wonder it came down.

I left the site at 2 pm Sunday, with an average of 18 inches of snow on the ground. The 4 wheel drive Suburban was pushing some snow with the bumper, and ploughing a large ditch with the axles and differentials. Even though I had not brought the tire chains with me, because the route was all down hill, I had no problems getting out. There was snow down to the 6,000 feet elevation level.

WHAT DID I LEARN? I learned that occasionally we can get a major winter storm as early as late October. That aside, the varying operating conditions resulted in no extended operating time periods where the response to my station could be compared to other stations operating the contest from this region of the country. Therefore I can only compare brief snippets of operating time from this elevated site with my experience of operating on 160 metres over the last 23 years.

The following points lead me to firmly believe that there is some advantage to the elevated transmitting location.

1. The contacts on Thursday evening with HC8 and Friday morning with KH8, using

only 100 Watts.

2. The response to my calls during the first one hour + of the contest when all equipment was operating correctly and the atmospheric conditions were decent.

3. Being called by KH6, KH8, KG4, and PJ9 the 2nd night when my transmitting antenna was radiating very little RF.

These are the results of the contest operation:

Hours operated:	5.5
Total Contacts:	165
DX Contacts:	29
Zones:	10
Countries:	21
Zone 3,4,5 Qs:	136
Score:	2,077

I would appreciate a report from anyone who heard my signal at any time during the 'test, noting approximate time and a general comparison of my signal to others from southern Zone 3. In particular are there any stations who tried to contact me and I did not hear your call? Thanks in advance for your time, and THANK YOU to all the stations that did contact me.

I am already laying plans for some future operations from the same and similar locations. There is one location where the possibility exists to install a permanent operating facility. I would like to receive information from anyone who has experience of operating 160 metres from locations such as I have described.

THE W6GO 1995 CW SWEEPSTAKES STORY

I have operated W6GO for many years in the ARRL November Sweepstakes contest. Many years ago, I had a large number of QSOs deleted from my log...so many that I went down a tremendous amount in the na-

tional standings. Upon inquiring about why there were so many QSOs deleted, I was sent a list of "errors" that I had made in my log. However, I could do nothing to dispute these "errors" as I had no evidence to the contrary. Of course, in my mind, I was sure that I hadn't made the mistakes attributed to me, but I could do nothing about it.

Ever since that time, I have video and audio tape recorded every Sweepstakes contest. Besides being good ammunition to show to unwanted house guests, it makes for interesting comparison when "errors" are alleged in my logs. I use a stereo VCR, with each channel recording one of the two radios I use for SS. I also focus a camera on the operating position to show I do not use packet, do not listen during off times, and do not otherwise cheat. I list the fact that I have these recordings available on my SS summary sheet, and always encourage the log checker to contact me for transcriptions of these tapes before concluding I made an "error". Ever since doing this recording, I have had NO QSOs deleted from my logs...that is, until 1995.

In the 1995 CW Sweepstakes, I was very pleased to submit a score of 1436 QSOs and 77 multipliers. In the high-claimed score list, I was fifth place in the contest, 19 QSOs ahead of K13V, the closest competitor in the Pacific Division. I was sure I had the Division record "in the bag", given the wide margin between the two scores. So imagine my surprise when I learned that W6GO placed SECOND in the Division, two QSOs behind K13V, in the final results. And I was further surprised to see that, of the ten stations in the "top ten" box, eight had QSOs deleted and two had none deleted...K13V and N6UR, the two other Pacific Division stations!

I sent off a FAX to the league on April 13, attention Billy Lunt. I requested a detailed list of my "errors", telling him I would be comparing them against my audio tape tran-

scription. Hearing no response to this request, I resent the FAX on April 23; I then received an e-mail confirmation of receipt a couple of days later.

In early May, I received a letter from Warren Stankiewicz, NF1J, detailing the listing of "errors" in the W6GO log. The letter claimed I had 13 "bad exchanges" and two "bad calls". For each "bad exchange", that QSO was deleted; for each "bad call" that QSO plus three penalties was deleted. This added up to the 21 QSOs lost from the log.

I fired up the VCR and began to listen to the tapes. The first "error" was a QSO with W4NTI. The league says the precedence should have been "B", while I had "A" in my log. The trouble is...here was W4NTI on the tape, clearly sending precedence "A"...something is wrong with this picture! I then listened to all the rest, and only found one other discrepancy between my tape and the league's "error list". W3DAD had sent me precedence "A", while the league said it should have been "B".

I wrote letters to both W4NTI and W3DAD, asking them to confirm that I had correctly copied what was sent. I got those letters back, each one saying I had logged the correct exchange. W4NTI said that he had TVI on 15 metres and couldn't run his amp, so he sent everyone "A" that worked him on 15. W3DAD simply said "sorry for the goof".

Armed with this, I wrote another letter to Mr. Lunt; this was mailed on June 17. In the letter, I pointed out the two QSOs that were incorrectly deleted from the W6GO log, and asked that they be reinstated immediately. I also raised the question about how it could be that only EIGHT stations in the top ten had any QSOs deleted, and that TWO had "golden logs". While this is certainly possible, it seemed unlikely. I received no response to this letter. On August 8, I wrote to Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, asking for him to intervene on my behalf. I also was keeping

my Division director and vice-director advised of the situation. This resulted in my receiving a letter from K1ZZ dated August 29, saying he had referred the matter to K8CH for action and resolution.

On September 14, I received a letter from Billy Lunt. In that letter, he stated that he was "giving me the benefit of the doubt" and reinstating the two lost QSOs as I had requested. He had also written to W4NTI and W3DAD and received the same responses that I had forwarded to the league. After that score increase, W6GO now tied K13V in the Pacific Division. I had succeeded in my quest, doing what many said was absolutely impossible!

QUESTIONS:

Was it worth the effort? Well, who can say...I felt cheated, and I felt I had a golden opportunity to test the system. I am pleased to report that I got what I asked for, and that there appears to be some justice in the system.

Is it possible for two stations in the top ten to have "golden logs"? I wish I could answer this question. My gut tells me "absolutely not", but I have no way to prove or disprove this. I have no choice but to trust in the league's contest branch. Perhaps K13V and KR6X (the operator of N6UR) will someday make their logs available to public scrutiny; until that time, who knows?

Will I tape record this year's contest? ABSOLUTELY! It is worth the time and effort to have this sort of evidence available. In a recent NCJ article, KR2Q says it is a "waste of time to record contests", since you will never be able to do anything with it. I believe I have disproved this notion!

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- * Dust off that stereo VCR and record the contest...especially if you think you will be in the top ten;

- * Request a list of your "errors" from the league once the results are published. Compare them to the tape;
- * Challenge log checking mistakes made by the league;
- * Admit your own mistakes to yourself and your peers;
- * Have fun in the contest!

73, Jim Pratt N6IG

A GREAT CQWW CONTEST - NOOOOT

Peter Casier ON6TT, 5X1T

(40 HOURS OF RADIO AND NOT A
SINGLE MULTIPLIER)

It was Saturday Oct 26 in the afternoon. Last weekend of October. CQWW weekend. I was standing on the roof of Entebbe airport, the international airport of Kampala, Uganda. Somebody called on VHF: 'T minus 30 minutes, the planes are landing!'. The telecom crew looked up from their work as two cargo planes approached the runway. 'UN-WFP' was painted on their side, United Nations World Food Programme, the UN organisation I work for as regional telecom manager. I let out a long sigh. 'At least we're paid for this', joked Ake, 5X1R, who stood next to me, and guessed how my mind wandered off to the CQWW SSB contest which was not to happen for me this year.

It all started six days ago. Fighting between the Zairian Tutsi's and the military run out of hand in Uvira, East Zaire. The 200,000 refugees in the camps around the city were fleeing for their safety, to the North, to Bukavu, the nearest refugee camps. The lives of the expatriate aid workers was threatened and they were evacuated from Uvira with a WFP plane, leaving behind a total chaos: local people, the Tutsi rebels, the Zairian army looting and fighting. We airlifted our people out on Tuesday, and the days after, alarming reports reached us that the fighting was ap-

proaching Bukavu. About 110,000 refugees from Uvira had then approached the already existing Bukavu refugee camps, population 300,000. saw it coming: no CQWW for me this year. And true it was. On Friday morning the UN decided to airlift food into Bukavu, as the food pipeline, to Bukavu was stopped. This pipeline is a fleet of Kampala based trucks which drive in hundreds of tons of food per day, to Goma and Bukavu. But the border with Zaire was recently closed due to local fighting and Goma itself was not much safer either. With a refugee population increasing to 500,000, Bukavu food-stocks could no longer be replenished. The same day, our regional telecom crew prepared to put up an air operations communication centre in Entebbe.

The next day, Saturday morning at 10:00, we left Kampala with two cars full of equipment, and we set up the radio stations on Entebbe Airport, one hour's driving away.

Now the first two of five planes were flying in and we needed to be ready A.S.A.P. And ready we were. Six hours after leaving Kampala, we had two HF base stations up and running, one VHF base, on cellular phone as at 1600 hours the first plane took off direction of Bukavu. The first messages were immediately handled by our newly set up air ops comms room. One radio was in continuous contact with the planes, one handled all traffic between the bases in Kampala, Goma and Bukavu, as well as with the WFP air ops centres in Nairobi and Lokichogio, both in Kenya. The VHF links were used to liaise between the Crisis Team in Kampala (who were in contact with the WFP HQ in Rome and UN HQ in NY), and the logistics ground crew, who was around in the airport, getting air clearances, ordering fuel, looking for storage and accommodation for people and cargo.

Meanwhile, our orders were changed: instead of flying in the food, we were to get

the aid helpers out of Bukavu, as the situation was running out of hand and headed straight for a plain blood bath. The scenario in Bukavu was equal to that of Uvira, a couple of days before, and Rwanda in 1994. At this point in time, 600,000 refugees were struggling for their lives in between the fighting and the looting.

The air ops communication centre which I manned resembled like manning single handed a multi-multi contest station with one person. Hundreds of messages were relayed and logged. Main events logged on a large white board, plans and scenarios pinned on the wall, people running around trying to set up and arranging all kinds of things which make an airlift/evacuation rolling. In a contest, you can miss a QSO or a multiplier, but in this situation you can not miss understand or miss relay one message. People's lives were at stake.

By 22:00 we had evacuated the 120 people we needed to pick up from Uvira, with 3 planes, and two more were being prepared on the air strip to fly into Goma the next day. I came home at 23:30, and did not dare to switch on my ham radio. The CQWW contest would be all over the bands and I would pity myself having missed it.

The Sunday, I got up at 5 am, and sped off to the airport. We did not know what was going to happen, as the situation was very confused. Were we to get aid workers out of Goma, north of Bukavu, which shelters 750,000 refugees? Where we to fly good into Goma? Though we still had some staff in Bukavu, and were fully manned in Goma, it was difficult to form a global overview on what was happening. The situation seemed very volatile. We sent two cars out to Gisenyi and Cyangugu, Rwandese towns just over the border of Zaire, to monitor the stream of refugees coming into Rwanda. Both teams had HF radios and satellite telephones with them. A smaller UNHCR plane flew into Goma, and we used it as a 'probe'

to feel what the situation was at the airport. Not good as we found out as some passengers were harassed and denied access to the plane. Zairian military planes were overflying Goma airport, which, soon after the small UN plane left, was declared 'closed'. No way we could get any of our large cargo planes in. Neither to take food in, nor to take people out. We decided to keep all planes on standby for the rest of the day, 'on call' as it was for our crew in Goma. The situation did not deteriorate further and in the evening, we closed the station at the airport. There was no way we could fly in during the night anyway.

Once again, it was night when I arrived home, and decided to switch on the radio. The CQWW contest was going into its sprint for the finish. I spin the dial over the bands, but I was almost falling asleep despite all the excitement I heard in the headset. I went to bed with mixed feelings. End of October has not been my lucky period lately. Last year, I missed the CQWW as, with the Heard team, we were in VK6 trying to find a boat for the expedition, after an Australian guy run off with our money. This year, I am in Africa, trying to help out in a regional conflict.

In a few minutes, I felt asleep like a rock. Maybe I dreamt of where I would be next year for the CQWW? Maybe I dreamt of entering my score of a few thousands of QSOs... With not a single multiplier..

8P9Z - CQWW SSB

Bill, Vic, and John's Excellent Adventure

John W2NA (ex- N6YRU)

The Cuba Libre Contest Club heads east. Yep, the Cuba Libre Contesters, better known as the "usual characters at V31DX" headed off to Barbados this year for the CQWW SSB test as guests of the 8P9Z group. The trip was great; here's the saga:

We almost didn't make the trip. Disaster, and I do mean disaster, struck the evening before our departure from San Diego.

On Monday I had all the gear packed and ready to rendezvous with Bill WA9L and Vic K16LM at the airport for an early Tuesday morning departure. The big fire in San Diego that you might have seen on the news started that afternoon in Vic's neighbourhood. Unable to reach Vic on the phone, my wife and I watched the news (and the soot that blew over our house) and anxiously waited for communication from our fellow Cuba Libre Contester. All of the phones and power were out in Vic's part of town. Cell phone coverage in that semi-rural section of San Diego was very spotty and overloaded. The fire, which was to destroy over 100 homes, was really raging. Vic was busy moving the animals to safety and hosing down his and his neighbour's property. That evening he got his 440 HT working and contacted me through one of the local repeaters. He expected to be up all night. Things were touch and go for the contest - though it hardly seemed like the most important thing. Vic was successful in keeping the fire from damaging his home - but did spend all night directing fire-fighters on the rural roads in his part of town. The only communication that reliably worked was his HT and the repeater system - at least as long as the battery lasted. Score one for ham radio.

Tuesday morning an exhausted Vic, Bill, and I met at the airport. Vic and his neighbour's homes were OK with just some burned trees and fences. After an uneventful flight we arrived in Barbados Wednesday afternoon and were greeted by our agent. Over the years I've learned to hire a local agent to facilitate customs clearance of a bunch of radios, amplifiers, and more computers than passengers! Our local agent, Thomas Harper jr, was accompanied by his dad, Tom Harper 8P6EB, who was president of the Amateur Radio Society of Barbados. With Tom jr handling the paperwork and

Tom sr explaining to Barbados customs that all of this equipment was necessary for the "international radio competition" we breezed through a friendly but slightly bewildered customs agent. With rental jeeps rented and directions cheerfully provided by Tom sr we headed off to Warleigh Plantation, home of the 8P9Z contest station on the north side of the island.

The station is wonderful. It's in a guest cottage out in the country with a clear shot in almost all directions. There are three towers; one 70 foot with a 3 element 40 metre beam and a 5 element ten metre beam, one 50 foot with a TH-7 and another 50 footer with a TH-6. 80 and 160 have Vee beams. We arrived just as Steve K4FJ and Jack K3KG completed laying out two 1000 foot Beverage antennas. They had been in Barbados for a week installing the 10 metre beam, the Vee beams, getting the station together, and generally decompressing to Caribbean time. We unpacked and installed our contribution to the effort; five laptop computers (three networked with CT), and an FT-1000MP / Alpha 76 to add to the already installed two TS850s and amps. A local Internet connection allowed us to check our e-mail. We headed out for a get acquainted dinner at a local restaurant that night. I think contesters and fisherman have a great deal in common when it comes to story telling!

The plantation is managed by Jagan 8P6PW. Without his support and enthusiasm Jack and Steve would not have been able to assemble the station which is in the plantation's guest cottage. Thursday evening Jagan and his wife and daughter treated us to a wonderful home cooked meal. There was no shortage of Cuba Libres mixed with the local Mount Gay Rum. (Great booze!). The following morning Jagan gave Bill, Vic, and me a terrific tour of the north end of the island that he knows and loves so much. We even stopped at the Mount Gay Rum distillery - pictures of the Cuba Libre Contesters posing in front of the distillery will, no

doubt, find their way on to a QSL card in the future.....

On Friday, contest day, we did our ritual hangin' out at the hotel swimming pool thing. Relaxed and refreshed we were ready to churn and burn. Vic started on the run with Jack and Steve chasing multipliers. I looked after the computers and stuff. Bill was on the phone with his office sorting out something about a missing T1 line - entrepreneurial company presidents never can escape - even on DXpeditions to contest locations. Jack was the official band change caller. It was clear that Jack and Steve had done many contests together - they were almost telepathic about managing the ten minute rule. They quickly picked up on the vagaries of CT having done all of their logging by hand in the past. I think Jack must have reached 100wpm hunt and peck typing! Concentration is an amazing thing. Jack and Steve really showed us some real skill in multiplier chasing - they would each map out their respective bands, noting new mults - on each ten minute cycle each would sweep their bands - it was magic. At V31DX, our usual contest QTH, we only have a single tower with a tribander and single antennas for the other bands. As a result we never really could pile up the mults but learned to run fast. Vic and I found ourselves prime time sprinters on the run station - great fun.

The Beverage receiving antennas for 80 and 160 were wonderful, reducing the noise level several S-units and virtually eliminating static crashes. I won't do a contest on these bands again without a Beverage :-). Forty was so crowded each evening that I found myself all the way down at 7020. It was wall to wall all the way to 7100. In general we tried to run Europeans on Saturday and W/VE stations on Sunday.

A few observations: Eight-papa-nine-zulu is most definitely easier to say ten thousand times than victor-three-one-delta-xray! I was

able to end each and every Q with our call signalling the pile-up to start. Not one "what's your call?" to slow the rate. Most of the US/VE stations got the message and gave full calls - the Europeans now seem to be in love with last/first/middle two letters slowing an already slow (150/hr) rate with the need to do a fill for every Q. Full calls always work better - for me at least. The recent Master.dta file generated by Jim AD1C from the logs of the Hi-Q contest stations in recent contests had an amazingly high hit rate. Don't know what this means except that there are not enough newcomers to contesting. V31 was in short supply during the contest. We worked only one, V31MX, on 15. V31MX is one or two hams from Texas that have been coming to Ambergris Caye and later Caye Caulker for the major SSB contests with a pretty minimal station and doing a fine job. It's the kind of shack in a suitcase operation that I would like to see encouraged. Thanks for keeping V31 active guys.

Magic moments: With five minutes to go in the contest ZD8Z broke through the US pile-up on 40 to give us a new multiplier - thanks Jim. Having an HS1 call Saturday night on 40. On Sunday afternoon on 15 I had probably the best running hour of contesting I've ever had - with the last 10 rate-o-meter regularly over 400 and the last 100 Q-rate at over 360/hr for most of the hour - conditions were perfect with just a few callers with 59 signals and each giving full calls.

When someone would give me a last, middle, or inside out two letters I about wanted to kill 'em as I watched my Q-rate drop below 400 as I had to get a fill. (*Ed: Yet time and again I hear CDXC members hollering their "last two" in pile-ups - pretty poor operating standards*). Other magic moments: periodically standing by for Africa to find a small pile-up of African stations really there. Each day I could follow the grey line from the 4X4s and the OD5s across Africa to the Canary Islands.

Not so great moments: When you link three computers together with the CT daisy chain serial network and the middle one crashes the network stops. Need I say more? The logs got out of sync early and often between the machines. Thank goodness for Merge.exe. I think some RF was getting into the RS-232 lines providing enough EMF to look like signalling. We used CT 9.27. Wish Ken would use a real network. One of the laptops decided at 2:00 am to roll back an hour because of daylight savings leaving the log out of sync by an hour. Fixing that now. The TS850 on 160/80 lost about 30db of front end gain - probably because of overloading from adjacent antennas on other bands - hint - the in-line RF power meter moved a lot when the 40 metre station was modulated! Early Sunday morning is always very slow in these contests - but our Sunday was extreme - if our log is correct, we worked exactly one station between 9:00 and 10:00am Zulu Sunday. At least it was a multiplier - a CE on 40. Gotta admit I was sawing logs at the time :-).

So how did we do? Until the logs are finally assembled and we find our missing hour - if it is, indeed, missing - our Multi-Single effort yielded about 7,200 QSOs and 716 multipliers for about 12,000,000 points. Enough to make, we hope, the top five, and perhaps, top North American. The ZW0F score was simply amazing - super job guys! Full score will be posted on the 3830 reflector when I piece it together.

On Monday morning we bid a fond farewell to our gracious hosts and fellow testers at 8P9Z (maybe they'll invite us back...) and headed back to the States.

The 8P9Z contest cottage is available for rent. Contact Jack K3KG or Steve K4FJ for details.

oooOOOooo

CQWW CW - LOW PWR

Walt, KN4T (ex-AC10)

My low power effort in the CQ WW last November generated a surprisingly-high 104 countries on 40 metres. I thought some of you might be interested in the story behind that rather large number of mults.

I started the contest on 40, as I always do these days; there aren't enough DX stations on 20 on Friday night (and far too many US stations chasing what few there are) for me to do anything decent there, and competing with the Northeast big guns on 80 with my low-power signal is next-to-impossible in the early hours of the contest. My usual Friday-night strategy is to start at 7030 and S&P my way up the band, but that usually yields a bunch of Q's with stations that are on all weekend. So I decided to generally lurk up in the weeds (great term, N0AX!) above 7050, trying to pick up some more casual stations plus some mults that may not have been discovered by the Packet Mob during the early confusion. My first Q was 3V8BB (a good omen!), and I also got 3DA0NX and 9K2/YO9HP early on. I then found a hole at 7067; during the short but productive run that followed I was called by a T7, an IS0, and ZS6SA (I keep the beam pointed a little south of Europe, trying to make things like that happen!). I was quickly driven off the frequency, though (low power stations get used to it), but found 4L7AA and NL7G to make up for it as the first hour ended.

I spent the 01Z hour mostly S&Ping, and in the process got contacts with 6W1AE, CN8BK, 3C5A and 9J2SZ (plus a GU). The 02Z hour was more of the same, but yielded Q's with a TA1 and a HP along the way. Then I found a good spot just above 7050; I got 52 Q's in the 03Z hour (remember, I'm running low power from way down in South Florida; that's big-time stuff for me!) The run petered out at the end of the hour, but I found and worked a TA2,

TU2 and 7Q7 right afterwards. Another run in the 04Z hour got the last-100 rate meter up to 50(!) at 0424; then I somehow managed to work JY8B at 0500 and 3G1X at 0800. Along with my EU and Caribbean mults, this brought me to 310/79 when I called it quits at 0815.

I didn't even attempt the pre-sunrise Oceania/Asia 40-metre opening Saturday morning; chances of a low power station getting through the West Coast wall are a lot better (although still not great) on Sunday. So I started on 20 at dawn Saturday, and didn't come back to 40 until 2240, when I nabbed 9U5DX and D44BC, then, miraculously, found 7Z500 without a pileup and worked him, too. Along with some more EU mults, this brought my 40-metre totals up to 339/85 after 24 hours.

Day Two: I had ignored 80 and 160 the first day, but had to spend some time there the second night to try to get at least some multipliers, and 40 thus took somewhat of a back seat the second night. But quick checks of the band in the 01Z hour (I was just using one radio, by the way) got me 5V7A, 9Y4H and PY2NY, and I worked ZD8DEZ, 5X4F, and EM1KA in the 02Z hour (along with four Caribbean/SA mults -- including PZ1DV, who called me!). I then lucked upon 4X7A in the next hour, along with 8R1K and HK6KKK -- and managed to break through the massive A61AJ pileup at the very bottom of the band in the 04Z hour (well, I broke through after the mob simmered down some). I then worked ZL3CW at 0606, and decided to call it a night with 99 40-metre mults in the log.

I got back on at 1030 to try to work some Asia/Oceania stuff (along with trying to clean up the Caribbean on 160, where I only had 8 multipliers). But conditions seemed really terrible; the only mult I got on 160 was N2RM(!), and the sometimes-big JA opening on 40 generated only five contacts. But I also managed to get through to VK1FF

on 40 (who later called me on 20 -- long-path; that man has GREAT ears!) plus KH0DQ and a RZ0, and HC5AI added one last SA mult to bring me up to my final total of 432 Q's and 104 countries on 40. (The JA opening on 20 during the last two hours of the contest was much too productive for me to try one last shot at 40, which I suspect would have yielded me another mult or two but would have held back my overall score - which broke above 1.8M in the last half hour of the contest.)

And so that's how little old me, operating low power, ended up with 104 countries on 40 last weekend. It helped that I managed to get some runs going both nights; CQing is the only way to get a lot of those less-common EU countries (as I've found out the hard way over the years; my inability to run well on 20 kept me under 100 countries there, for example). And years of low-power S&P'ing have taught me to quickly recognise the unusual on a band -- and how to bust small-to-medium sized pileups, if I must, to get a mult. (Clue: my TX RIT is in constant use in the process.) In addition, conditions had to be pretty darn favourable from FL into EU this past weekend (was the MUF just above 7 MHZ on the FL-EU path and just below 7 MHZ farther north for a while?) Whatever the case, I did do well on 40 -- and it was sure a nice way to break in the new call!!

(For those who are interested in digging further, my breakdown sheet and log are available on my website at: <http://www.4w.com/deemer/96cqww.txt>).

NCJ - NEW EDITOR

I am living up to a commitment I made some time ago to "do my part for the sport of contesting" and take my turn editing the NCJ. As all other editors have felt, I am somewhat overwhelmed with the tasks necessary to complete the job, and also feeling somewhat hard-pressed to meet the same high standards set by Bruce, AA5B, and his

predecessors. Bruce did a great job--TOO!

As always and forever, I/we am/are looking for fresh material for publication. It is not as difficult as you might think to put your work into the NCJ. I have done it several times in the past. One just needs the topic and the desire.

I prefer to find material that has not been published before - especially off the CQ Contest mailing list. Please run your ideas through me for help if you are interested in doing an article, or if you have something underway.

If anyone is interested in writing a new column please let me know also.

The editorship has kind of made its way across the continent. Now it is in the upper Midwest--an area I am particularly and peculiarly accustomed to. The Midwest in general is also the place in the world where the LARGEST amateur radio and contest stations will be found. I hope to tap the expertise of the people in this region who have done their time from the "Black Hole".

I also bring other likes and dislikes to the job that may be somewhat different from past editors. I very much enjoy VHF/UHF contesting and DXing. I find that few HF contesters have really sampled what is available "higher up". I hope to expand some of the things we do as contesters with VHF/UHF contesting. Many typical contesters have been bitten by the VHF bug lately and are discovering a new frontier where every QSO is an achievement on the par of working HS7AS long path on 40.

The NCJ is and always will be the best contest-specific magazine available. We will continually try to set it apart from the rest. If you do not subscribe I ask that you do so. Our niche within the amateur community is constantly endangered from one arena to another, so any support for the sport is ammunition in our favour.

The next sunspot cycle will bring the best EVER contest and general operating enjoyment. Activity is at an all-time high, technology is widely and cheaply available the world over, travel is as inexpensive and safe as it will be for decades to come, and all the contest records that mean anything will (in my opinion) be set - possibly forever, in the upcoming years. Be a part of it!

Dave Patton, KW9KW, Ex: WX3N,
AA9AK, WO0G, NU9R, AH2U, KJ9W,
WD9DCL, KC6KW, 8Q7WQ.

RUN OR MULT?

Brian Coyne, G4ODV has written the following letter to the Chairman, CQ Contest Committee:

Re: CQWW CW 1996

I operated this contest as M6L. Propagation was poor here in Northern Europe on the 10m band.

On Sunday afternoon I came across IQ4A calling CQ on 10m with no takers, and it took several attempts before he managed to identify my callsign due to the poor conditions. However, having finally established who and where I was he refused to exchange, explaining that he was only working mults. I told him that I needed him for a mult but he still declined.

I believe that IQ4A was a multi-single station. This whole business probably took five minutes from start to finish. It is my understanding that the running station should not be transmitting whilst the multiplier station is actually in operation and it is my belief that there is no way that situation prevailed here. I can see now that they did not wish to get involved with the ten-minute rule by working me or anyone else who wasn't a mult.

OK, I'm sore because I didn't manage to get Italy as a mult on 10m in this contest, but I am not writing this letter as a personal gripe,

but from overall concern as to how rules get stretched to the limits and beyond what is acceptable.

Let's kick this around a little and consider the following scenarios:

a) This multiplier station finally raises a new mult and works him, the ten-minute should definitely then come into play because he was CQing, but did they? A look at their log might answer this; personally, I doubt it, this tactic was developed because they didn't want to operate the run station on a poor band.

b) There is a brief opening to east coast USA, K1AR works IQ4A, it goes out on the Cluster. Ten minutes later there is another brief opening and W3LPL, followed a little later by N2RM, call and get the "freeze" treatment that I got. I'm sure that I would hear the reverberations of those exchanges over here without needing a radio.

c) Let's say the IQ4A gang had gone to Monaco and were operating as 3A, the only station QRV from that country. Can you imagine the heated complaints that you would receive if only one station from each of zones 3, 4 and 5 had been privileged to work this valuable mult to the exclusion of all other Stateside callers?

Surely a multiplier station is a spotting station who searches for mults? When they find and call a new mult the run station should stand down and there is only one transmitted signal at any one time. This in itself is hard to police, but allowing a spotting station to send CW calls for mults effectively amounts to two running stations and it is a violation of the single transmitter status.

Surely these sort of tactics are a breach of the spirit of the contest, if not the strict rules, which perhaps ought to be re-written to exclude this type of operating? Personally speaking I would move these guys into the multi-multi category for adjudication.

BOOK REVIEW

Reflections in a Rosebowl - A History of the Commonwealth Contest

by Bob Whelan G3PJT

Reviewed by Dave Lawley G4BUO

When you think of a contest, you think of a quick-fire exchange, rapid sending and maybe a whole weekend spent CQing. Those brought up on a 'rate' contest sometimes fail to understand what makes the Commonwealth Contest - still known colloquially as 'BERU' - such a special event. The first BERU contest was held in 1931 and, with the intervention of the war, the 1997 event will be the 60th anniversary.

For the past two years Bob Whelan G3PJT has been researching the history of the contest and the result is 120 pages packed with stories and pictures dating from the first winner VK2NS to the present day.

Each year's contest is written up and there are contributions from past entrants and present-day BERU stalwarts. To chart the progress of the contest from 1931 to the present day is to chart the history of amateur radio itself. Before the war, gear was all homebrew and the antenna usually some form of Zepp. Surplus equipment started to appear after the war and then gradually entrants moved to commercial amateur gear, first Collins and Hallicrafters, then Drake and more recently the Japanese manufacturers. Dud Charman G6CJ led the way with antenna innovation, being the first to use an aerial with a parasitic reflector in 1936, and by the 1950s most of the leaders were using directional antennas.

For his extensive researches Bob had access to G3FXB's notes and photographs, and Al had also collected all of Rusty G5WP's BERU archives before his death. Rusty won the contest outright in 1950 and is the only G station to have done so post-war although

Al missed by just 26 points in 1975. Together with excellent quality photographs from the early days, thanks to up-to-the-minute computer enhancement technology, there are many BERU stories, some of which have passed into legend. Peter VP8GQ (now G3LET) failed to have his first entry in the 1962 event accepted: the log arrived in London nine months late, having been delayed by Antarctic ice. The following year his log made it in time and he won by a clear margin over G5WP. Back in 1937 it was said that when SUIRO keyed his transmitter the trams in Cairo all stopped. This was an exaggeration but he operated from the tram shed in Cairo and did indeed get his HT from the overhead wires.

Bob brings us up to date with the change to the rules for the 1997 contest which introduces a 12-hour section. He also shows that the HF Contest Committee's concern about activity level has historical precedents and is related to the ups and downs of the sunspot cycle. Indeed, the level of G activity in the contest has never been a problem, what is needed is to boost the activity levels from ZL, VK and VE as well as the more exotic parts of the Commonwealth. BERU is one of my favourite contests of the year and with the likes of VE3EJ, ZL3GQ and the late G3FXB I feel I am in good company. It can get slow overnight, but even in 1996 at the bottom of the cycle there was a 20m long-path opening to VK and ZL at around 0200z and it is opportunities like this which make the event attractive to the DXer as well as to the contester who is prepared to do more than just CQ endlessly.

G3PJT's book is a superb work of history which all devotees of the Commonwealth Contest will enjoy reading and it may help to explain to the uninitiated why 'BERU' is still such a special event in the amateur radio calendar 65 years after its inception.

oooOOOooo

CONTEST RULES

RSGB AFFILIATED SOCIETIES TEAM CONTEST

Date: Sunday 12 January 1997.
Time: 1400-1800UTC
Freq: 3510-3590kHz
Mode: CW
Exchange: RST plus serial from 001.

Date: Saturday 18 January 1997.
Time: 1400--1800UTC
Freq: 3600--3750kHz
Mode: SSB
Exchange: RS plus serial from 001.

Full rules for this contest appear in RSGB publications

RSGB LF CUMULATIVE CONTESTS 1997

Dates: 14, 22, 30 January.
Time: 2000-2200UTC.
Freq: 1830-1870, 1950--1960 (Novice Freq).
Mode: CW.

Date: 11, 25 January
2 February
Time: 1600-1800UTC.
Freq: 3530-3580kHz
Mode: CW.

Date: 19, 26 January and 1 February
Time: 1000-1200UTC.
Freq: 7015-7040kHz
Mode: CW. Exchange: RST + Serial nr starting 001 for all sessions.

Full rules for this contest appear in RSGB publications

HA DX CONTEST 1997

Date/Time: 19 January. 00-2400z
Freq: 80-10 metres
Mode: CW only.
Exchange: RST and serial fm 001.

Classes: Single operator, single / multi-band, multioperator single/multitransmitter.

HA stations will give a two-letter code corresponding to their location (county). Codes, BA BE BP BN BO CS FE GY HA HE KO NG PE SA SO SZ TO VA VE ZA. HADXC members will give their club number instead of the county code.

Points: 6 points per HA QSO, 3 points for non HA QSOs. Multiply by sum of HA counties and club members worked per band.

Logs: Send entries within 6 weeks to HADXC Club, PO BOX 79, Paks H-7031 Hungary.

CQWW 160M

CW: 24-26 January
SSB: 21-23 February

Single operator QRP(<5 W) low power (<150 W) High power(>150 W) and multioperator only. Use of Packet cluster or other spotting systems put you in multioperator class.

Points: 2 points with own country, 5 points per QSO with another country in the same continent and 10 points per QSO with another continent. Maratime mobiles count 5 points but dont count as multipliers. Multiply by sum of US states, Canadian Provinces, and countries as per DXCC + WAE Lists.

US stations will send RST + state. Non US send RST + Prefix or country abbreviation. Club Competition.

Logs: Mail entry by 28 February 96 (phone 31 March) to: David Thompson K4JRB, 4166 Mill Stone Ct Norcross, GA 30092.

ARRL DX CW

When: Third full weekend in February.

Time: 00:00 - 24:00UTC.

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10.

Mode: CW Only in recognised portions of the bands.

Categories: The rules here are fairly complex. If you propose to take part, see appropriate ARRL publication.

Contest Exchange: W/VE stations send RST & State or Province. DX stations ie Gs, DLs,etc, send RST plus your power (3 digit number indicating your aprox power.

Scoring: QSO Points, 3 points per W/VE QSO.

Multipliers: The sum of US States and VE Provinces worked per band. Maximum of 62 per band.

Final Score: QSO Points Times Multipliers.

All entries with more than 500 QSOs must have a Dupe sheet for cross checking purposes.

Send your entry to: ARRL contest Branch, 225 Main street, Newington, CT 06111 USA.

Entries must be post marked 30 days after the last contest, in this case the ARRL SSB in April 97.

NEW RECORD?

Late news.....

In the 1996 CQWW CW Contest, Don Field, G3XTT, made 967 QSOs with 23 zones and 92 countries on 160m, for a claimed score of 170,085 points. He believes that this is a new world record in the 160m Single Band Assisted category.

Tnx DXNS

That's it for this Issue, my thanks go to RSGB & RadCom, DXNS, QST, Publica-

tions for without them much of the information would not be available.

Lastly, if you are running a contest station and perhaps need an extra operator, then let me know, I can do no more !. I do hope that you have a successful contesting period ahead, and look forward to working / hearing you soon.

Thanks. 73s de Ken.....G0ORH.

CONTEST CALENDAR

Japan Int.LF DX	Jan 10-12
HA DX Contest	Jan 19
CQ 160M CW	Jan 24-26
REF CW	Jan 25-26
UBA Phone	Jan 25-26
Delaware QSO Party	Feb 1-2
Dutch PACC	Feb 8-9
Asia-Pacific Sprint CW	Feb 8
YL-OM Phone	Feb 8-10
RGSB 1.8 MHz CW	Feb 8-9
North American Sprint, CW	Feb 9
ARRL Internat.CW	Feb 15-16
CQ 160M SSB	Feb 21-23
North Carolina QSO Party	Feb 22-23
REF SSB	Feb 22-23
UBA CW	Feb 22-23
YL-OM CW	Feb 22-24
RGSB 7 MHz CW	Feb 22-23
ARRL Internat Phone	Mar 1-2
RSGB Commonw'lth	Mar 8-9
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar 9-10
Bermuda Contest	Mar 15-16
BARTG WW RTTY Contest	Mar 15-17
Russian DX Contest	Mar 15-16
CQWW WPX SSB	Mar 29-30
SP DX CW	Apr 5-6
EA RTTY	Apr 5-6
Holyland	Apr 5-6
JA Int HF DX	Apr 11-13

FINAL FINAL

FOR SALE

1. National Contest Journal (NCJ) Sept/Oct, 1988 to July/August, 1995. Also CDXC Newsletter July, 1989 (Issue 62) to November, 1995 (Issue 98). Any offers? Contact : Derek Thom, G3NKS, Tel: 01242-241099 (9am-9pm).

2. 1996 Call Book on CDROM - includes International and North American Listings, with search facility plus DXCC country list and lots more. £15.00 - please contact G3PMR on 01767 677 913.

(Ed: There is no charge for "Readers Ads, but they will only be published on an opportunity basis when space permits. Pass your ad direct to the newsletter editor).

MAKES YOU THINK..

When the group responsible for qualifying stations for WRTC-96 first began to set the criteria, there ensued a fierce debate over whether to automatically disqualify any station with a Quad as being unfairly advantaged!

HR CHASER TABLE

We need more entries in the table! Currently there are just over 30 callsigns participating but there are well over 260 members in CDXC. Surely you are all active DXers? Send in an entry and don't forget to claim a certificate if you have 270 or more confirmed for DXCC. The rules for the HR Chaser Table appear on page 23 of this issue...

THE GOOD LIFE?

Spare a few thoughts for KK6EK, ON6TT and the other guys who are braving the Antarctic cold to give us some fun in the coming days...

Each and every one of them must be wondering why they are at that end of the pile-up and not sitting in a warm shack at home. This kind of unselfish dedication is the mark of a true enthusiast and your editor is proud to count several of the DXpeditioners among his friends. (I just hope they don't ask me to repay the favour one day!).



Top DXer Franz, DJ9ZB, who showed up just before Christmas from 7O1A. This picture was taken on Clipperton Island in 1985.

Very many thanks to those members who contributed to this issue. To those who didn't....remember the next issue!!

See you in the pile-ups
Vy 73 de Bren, G4DYO

SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S OFFER.

HyGain DX-77 Vertical Windom Half -Wave Antenna (similar to Cushcraft R7)

- * 40-10m including WARC bands
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Pictured opposite is the **Gem Quad**, as used by G3ZBA, G4DYO and other leading UK DXers. This antenna - at only £350 - has to be the best value "bangs for bux" option around, and being lightweight does not need an enormous rotator. With its strong fibreglass construction this antenna will last for many years - even with our weather.

Often the best solution for the small garden the **Gem Quad** has a turning radius of only 10.5 ft - much less than any triband yagi. The 2ele standard kit includes elements for 20-15-10 but 17 and 12m elements are easily added to the frame. **Gem Quads** are in stock for immediate delivery.

Want to have a good signal on 40m, but don't think you have the space ???

Have a look at the Force 12 C-4SXL from Force 12 Antennas. This is a very efficient tribander (full size 20-15-10m elements) plus a 2 ele linear loaded yagi for 40m on the same boom. With a turning radius of just 22.5 ft this enables a very effective 40-10m system without the problems of vertical stacking and a rotator upgrade.

Do you like a real challenge (makes topband DX look quite easy !!!) ?

Try some EME. We have the VHF antennas to make it possible. If that's too ambitious we can certainly ensure you get a fat signal into the local PacketCluster with our small VHF/UHF Yagis.

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